Frommer's®

Utah

6th Edition

by Don & Barbara Laine and Eric Peterson

Here's what the critics say about Frommer's:

"Amazingly easy to use. Very portable, very complete."
—Booklist

"Detailed, accurate, and easy-to-read information for all price ranges."
—Glamour Magazine

"Hotel information is close to encyclopedic."
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"Frommer's Guides have a way of giving you a real feel for a place."
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Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Published by:

Wiley Publishing, Inc.
111 River St.
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5744

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ISBN-13: 978-0-471-76984-2
ISBN-10: 0-471-76984-3

Editor: Alexia Meyers
Production Editor: Eric T. Schroeder
Cartographer: Nicholas Trotter
Photo Editor: Richard Fox
Production by Wiley Indianapolis Composition Services

Front cover photo: Zion National Park: Pools on left fork, North Creek Subway
Back cover photo: Man downhill skiing, Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort

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Manufactured in the United States of America

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An Invitation to the Reader

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that, too. Please write to:

Frommer's Utah, 6th Edition
Wiley Publishing, Inc. • 111 River St. • Hoboken, NJ 07030-5744

An Additional Note

Please be advised that travel information is subject to change at any time—and this is especially true of prices. We therefore suggest that you write or call ahead for confirmation when making your travel plans. The authors, editors, and publisher cannot be held responsible for the experiences of readers while traveling. Your safety is important to us, however, so we encourage you to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Keep a close eye on cameras, purses, and wallets, all favorite targets of thieves and pickpockets.

About the Authors

Residents of northern New Mexico since 1970, **Don and Barbara Laine** have traveled extensively throughout the Rocky Mountains and the Southwest, spending as much time as possible in the outdoors. They have written Frommer's guides to Utah, Colorado, Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks, and the National Parks of the American West. The Laines have also authored *Little-Known Southwest* and *Best Short Hikes in Arizona* for The Mountaineers; and *The New Mexico Guide* for Fulcrum Publishing.

A Denver-based freelance writer, **Eric Peterson** has written and contributed to numerous Frommer's guides covering the American West, from Montana to Texas. He has also recently written several coffee-table books and *Ramble: A Field Guide to the USA* (www.speckpress.com). He likes to hike in the Rockies, ride his cruiser around Denver, and walk his faithful mutt, Giblet.

Other Great Guides for Your Trip:

Frommer's Zion & Bryce Canyon National Parks

Frommer's Grand Canyon National Park

Frommer's American Southwest

The Unofficial Guide to B&Bs and Country Inns in the Southwest

The Unofficial Guide to the Best RV and Tent Campgrounds in the Southwest & South Central Plains

Frommer's Arizona

Frommer's New Mexico

Frommer's Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a **star-rating system.** In country, state, and regional guides, we also rate towns and regions to help you narrow down your choices and budget your time accordingly. Hotels and restaurants are rated on a scale of zero (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). Attractions, shopping, nightlife, towns, and regions are rated according to the following scale: zero stars (recommended), one star (highly recommended), two stars (very highly recommended), and three stars (must-see).

In addition to the star-rating system, we also use **seven feature icons** that point you to the great deals, in-the-know advice, and unique experiences that separate travelers from tourists. Throughout the book, look for:

Finds	Special finds—those places only insiders know about
Fun Fact	Fun facts—details that make travelers more informed and their trips more fun
Kids	Best bets for kids and advice for the whole family
Moments	Special moments—those experiences that memories are made of
Overrated	Places or experiences not worth your time or money
Tips	Insider tips—great ways to save time and money
Value	Great values—where to get the best deals

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

AE American Express	DISC Discover	V Visa
DC Diners Club	MC MasterCard	

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Now that you have the guidebook to a great trip, visit our website at **www.frommers.com** for travel information on more than 3,000 destinations. With features updated regularly, we give you instant access to the most current trip-planning information available. At Frommers.com, you'll also find the best prices on airfares, accommodations, and car rentals—and you can even book travel online through our travel booking partners. At Frommers.com, you'll also find the following:

- Online updates to our most popular guidebooks
- Vacation sweepstakes and contest giveaways
- Newsletter highlighting the hottest travel trends
- Online travel message boards with featured travel discussions

What's New in Utah

Change comes slowly to Utah—the state's mostly conservative population prefers to keep things the same. But change is inevitable, even here, and a major catalyst for change that still has repercussions today was the 2002 Winter Olympics. The state of Utah lobbied and won the honor of hosting the games, and then went to work improving and creating the venues needed for the games and for all the spectators.

Thanks to the games, you'll see major improvements to the ski areas that hosted the Olympics—from Park City to Ogden. And there are other, more subtle improvements. For instance, tons of money were spent to improve roads along the Wasatch Front, including Interstate 15, and to improve parking and signage in the cities that hosted the games. New hotels were built, and in many cases these have spawned some wonderful new restaurants and other facilities.

SALT LAKE CITY We had thought that the city's lodging scene was pretty well set, but changes continue. What was at one time a chain hotel has been reborn as a first-rate independent, the **Metropolitan Inn,** 524 S. West Temple (✆ **801/531-7100**). Clad in colorful stucco, the stylish guest rooms feature Art Deco reproductions and prints of *Wizard of Oz* characters above the beds (the Wicked Witch of the West excluded), plus Wi-Fi is available throughout the property. Fairly new (and new to this book) is **Hotel Monaco,** 105 W. 200 South (✆ **801/595-0000**), a classy place with a bit of quirk that mixes classic and contemporary styling. It offers Wi-Fi throughout the property and accepts pets. Neglected to bring Fluffy? Goldfish are provided to pet-less guests. The Monaco also has an excellent restaurant, **Bambara,** 202 S. Main St. (✆ **801/363-5454**), which blends various cuisines, from Asian to Italian to Cajun, for a delightful experience. Worth checking out is the brand-new **Museum of Utah Art and History,** 125 S. Main St. (✆ **801/355-5554**), a work-in-progress that promises to be something special when construction is completed. See chapter 6 for details.

THE NORTHERN WASATCH FRONT: UTAH'S OLD WEST There's been a lot going on in Ogden, one of our favorite Utah cities. Hotels continue the changing game, with the Ogden Plaza now the **Hampton Inn & Suites.** However, the completely renovated eight-story Art Deco–style 1913 facility is more like a boutique hotel than a chain. The **Treehouse Children's Museum,** 455 23rd St. (✆ **801/394-9663**), remains in temporary quarters, but plans to move to its new facility between 22nd and 2250 streets on Kiesel Avenue soon, so call before going. Ogden's nightlife keeps getting better. New is **Wiseguys,** 269 25th St. (✆ **801/622-5588**), which hosts live comics Friday and Saturday evenings. There's important news for skiers: Nordic Valley Ski Area has been bought by Wolf Creek Resort, which owns the Wolf Creek

Golf Resort, and renamed it **Wolf Mountain Ski Area,** 3567 Nordic Valley Way, Eden (✆ **801/745-3511**). Meanwhile, **Snowbasin Resort,** P.O. Box 460, Huntsville (✆ **801/620-1000**), which hosted the downhill and Super G competition during the Olympics, has gone year-round and is also now open in summer when it transforms into a hiking, biking, and horseback-riding mecca. See chapter 7 for more information.

THE SOUTHERN WASATCH FRONT: WORLD-CLASS SKIING & MORE And we thought Park City already had some of the state's fanciest accommodations. **Hotel Park City,** 2001 Park Ave. (✆ **435/200-2000**), which opened in 2003, is the new "in" place to hang your hat. Inspired by the grand lodges in national parks, Hotel Park City has everything you could ask for, including superb mountain views and bathrooms with big jetted tubs and separate three-headed showers. Also relatively new is the **Silver Queen Hotel,** 632 Main St. (✆ **800/447-6423**), Park City's only true boutique hotel, with rooms in four distinct styles—Asian, Whimsical, Mountain, and Urban. A couple of new nightspots have also appeared in Park City: **No Name Saloon,** 447 Main St. (✆ **435/649-6667**), and **The Spur,** 350½ Main St. (✆ **435/615-1618**). In the Provo area, there's a huge new **Cabela's,** 2502 Grand Terrace Pkwy., Lehi (✆ **801/466-2500**), selling every kind of outdoor gear imaginable. For more information see chapter 8.

UTAH'S DIXIE & THE COLORFUL SOUTHWEST CORNER It looks like St. George is going upscale, at least as far as dining goes. The **Painted Pony,** The Tower at Ancestor Square, 2 W. St. George Blvd., #22 (✆ **435/634-1700**), just might be the best restaurant between Las Vegas and Salt Lake City. It offers a creative menu that includes innovative variations on familiar dishes such as pan-roasted rack of lamb. **Basila's,** 1031 E. 700 South (✆ **435/634-9942**), has returned. After a long run at another location (an inclusion in earlier editions of this book) Basila's closed in 2000 to the dismay of many of its longtime aficionados. But with its reopening in 2003 it brings back its Greek and Italian standards, including gyros, kabobs, fettuccine, and baked eggplant. Also in St. George, there's a new attraction that's actually very, very old. The **St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm,** 2180 E. Riverside Dr. (✆ **435/574-3466**) showcases 2,000 fossilized tracks left by dinosaurs at a time when the area sat on the edge of an enormous lake. See chapter 10 for information.

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK Those passing through the community of Escalante heading to or from Bryce Canyon have a new lunch or dinner spot. **Georgie's Corner Cafe & Deli,** 190 W. Main St. (✆ **435/826-4784**), has been getting rave reviews from locals for its nachos—not just an appetizer but a full meal with meat, cheese, and veggies—and the veggie sandwich. See chapter 12.

LAKE POWELL & GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA After several years of lake-lowering drought the water is starting to come up, and just in time for some new houseboats. **Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas** (✆ **800/528-6154**) has announced two new classes of houseboat, including a luxurious 75-foot boat complete with hot tub and fireplace. See chapter 14.

1 The Best of Utah

From its desolate red-rock canyons to its soaring pine-covered peaks, Utah is spectacular. There aren't many places in the world where the forces of nature have come together with such dramatic results, creating a magnificent outdoor playground. This is a land of cultural discovery, and all the peoples who have settled here—from the ancestors of today's Pueblo Indians to Brigham Young's Mormons to mountain men and Wild West bandits—have left their distinctive mark, contributing to a wild, colorful history.

With so much to see and do, how do you choose? We've made this task easier by scouring the entire state from pinnacle to canyon and choosing the very best that Utah has to offer—the places and experiences you won't want to miss.

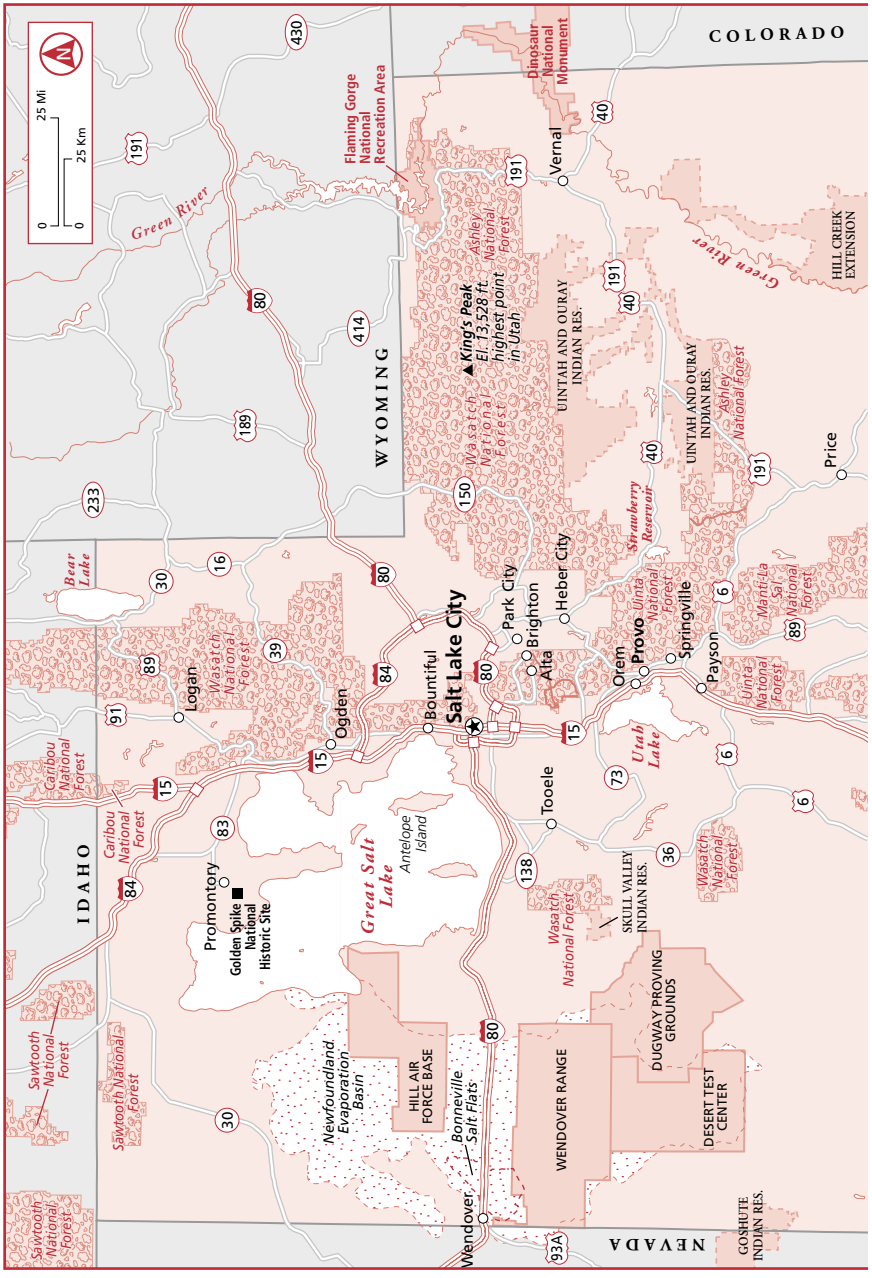
1 The Best Utah Travel Experiences

- **Exploring Bryce Canyon National Park:** Among Utah's—and maybe the nation's—most scenic parks, Bryce Canyon is also one of the most accessible. Several trails lead down into the canyon—and are more like walks than hikes—so just about everyone can get to know this beautiful jewel up close. Part of the Rim Trail is even wheelchair accessible. The colorful rock formations are impressive when viewed en masse from the rim, and become fanciful works of art as you walk among them. See chapter 12.
- **Enjoying Capitol Reef National Park:** This tranquil park isn't as well-known as Bryce or Zion, but it has an understated beauty all its own. And it's not too demanding, either: Wander through the orchards of Fruita, hike the Capitol Gorge Trail, stroll up the Grand Wash, or sit under the stars roasting marshmallows over your campfire. See p. 257.
- **Houseboating on Lake Powell:** Kick back and relax while floating on the deep blue waters of Lake Powell, with towering red rocks all around and an azure sky above. Feeling warm? Slip over the side for a dip in the cool water. Want a little exercise? Anchor yourself at one of the canyons and hike a bit. See p. 272.

2 The Best Views

- **The Narrows, Zion National Park:** The sheer 1,000-foot-high walls are awe-inspiring and almost frightening, as they enclose you in a 20-foot-wide world of hanging gardens, waterfalls, and sculpted sandstone arches, with the Virgin River running beneath your feet—literally. The Narrows are so narrow that you can't walk beside the river. Instead, you have to wade right in it—but the views are worth getting your feet wet. See p. 227.
- **Boulder Mountain Viewpoints** (between Escalante and Torrey): The

Utah


COLORADO
WYOMING
IDAHO
NEVADA
Green River
Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area
Dinosaur National Monument
Vernal
Green River
HILL CREEK EXTENSION
King's Peak El. 13,528 ft. highest point in Utah
Ashley National Forest
UINTAH AND OURAY INDIAN RES.
Strawberry Reservoir
Price
Bear Lake
Logan
Wasatch National Forest
Ogden
Bountiful
Salt Lake City
Park City
Brighton
Alta
Heber City
Orem
Provo
Springville
Payson
Utah Lake
Uinta National Forest
Manti-La Sal National Forest
Caribou National Forest
Sawtooth National Forest
Sawtooth National Forest
Promontory
Golden Spike National Historic Site
Great Salt Lake
Antelope Island
Tooele
Wasatch National Forest
SKULL VALLEY INDIAN RES.
Wasatch National Forest
Newfoundland Evaporation Basin
HILL AIR FORCE BASE
Bonneville Salt Flats
WENDOVER RANGE
DUGWAY PROVING GROUNDS
DESERT TEST CENTER
Wendover
GOSHUTE INDIAN RES.
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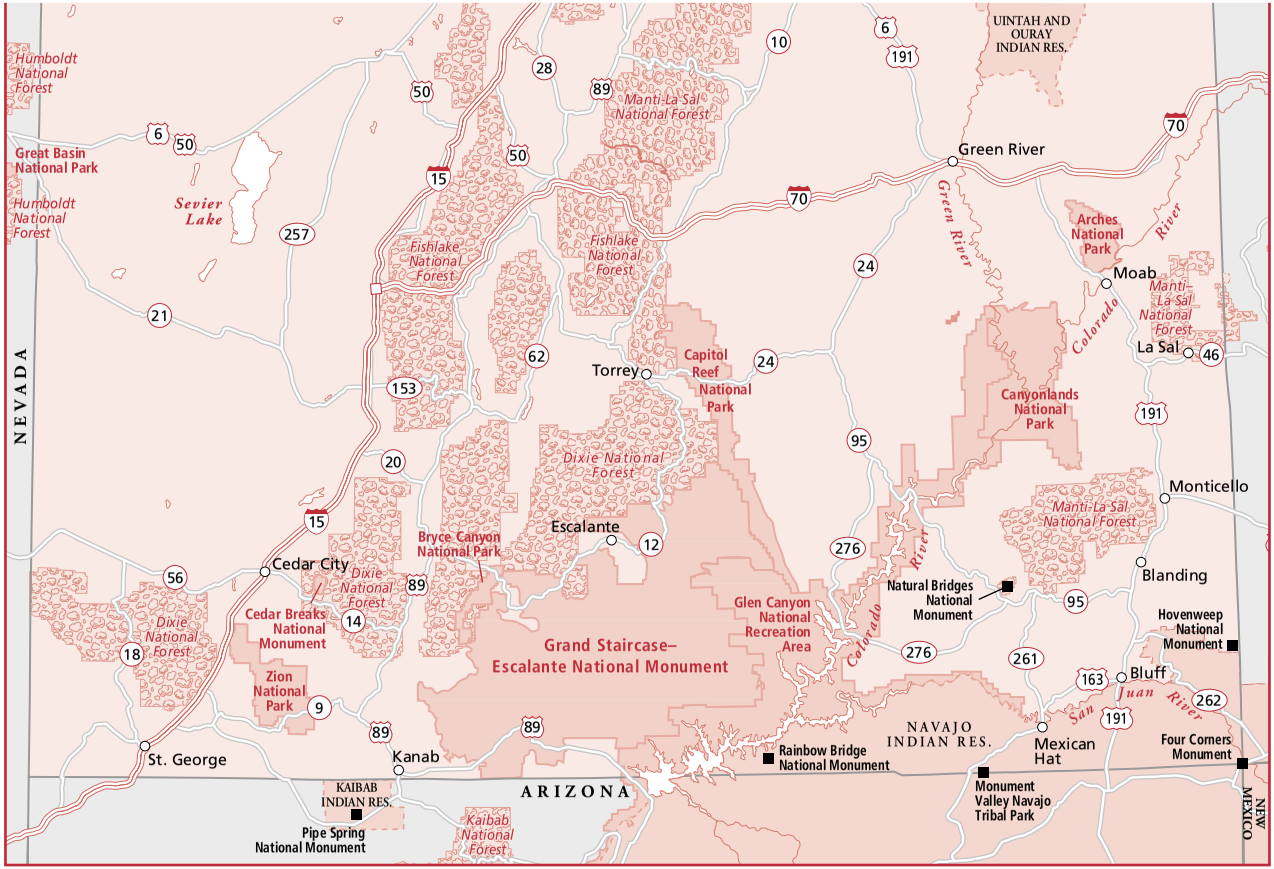

Humboldt National Forest
Great Basin National Park
Humboldt National Forest
Sevier Lake
NEVADA
Fishlake National Forest
Fishlake National Forest
Manti-La Sal National Forest
UINTAH AND OURAY INDIAN RES.
Green River
Green River
Arches National Park
Colorado River
Moab
Manti-La Sal National Forest
La Sal
Capitol Reef National Park
Torrey
Canyonlands National Park
Dixie National Forest
Escalante
Bryce Canyon National Park
Manti-La Sal National Forest
Monticello
Blanding
Natural Bridges National Monument
Cedar City
Dixie National Forest
Cedar Breaks National Monument
Dixie National Forest
Zion National Park
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Colorado River
Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument
Hovenweep National Monument
Bluff
San Juan River
NAVAJO INDIAN RES.
Mexican Hat
Four Corners Monument
St. George
Kanab
Rainbow Bridge National Monument
Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park
KAIBAB INDIAN RES.
Pipe Spring National Monument
Kaibab National Forest
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO

panoramas from the road along the crest of Boulder Mountain are extraordinary. You can see Capitol Reef, miles to the east, and the valleys and lakes nestled in between. It's like a fairyland, and we almost expected to see a gilded horse-drawn carriage passing through. See p. 256.

- **The Queen's Garden, Bryce Canyon National Park:** Carved in stone by Mother Nature, presided over by majestic Queen Victoria herself, these thousands of colorfully striped spires present a magnificent display when viewed from the rim. From the trail below, they dazzle as the early-morning sun throws them into stark relief. See p. 239.
- **Monument Valley Buttes at Sunset:** Impressive at any time, these stark sentinels of the desert take on a particularly dignified aura when the setting sun casts its deep colors over them, etching their profiles against a darkening sky. Although the park generally closes before sunset, you can arrange a sunset tour—it's well worth the cost. See p. 315.

3 The Best Family-Vacation Experiences

- **Camping at Cherry Hill Camping Resort** (Ogden): This fun-packed campground offers something for everybody: a water park with slides, pools, and even a pirate ship, plus miniature golf, batting cages, and aeroball (it's kind of like basketball). It's like staying in a theme park—a kid's dream come true. See p. 123.
- **Taking a Ride on the Heber Valley Historic Railroad:** Take a trip back in time on the "Heber Creeper," so called because of the way this historic steam train inches up the canyon from Provo. This once-proud passenger and freight line will let you experience travel the way it was in your grandparents' day. See p. 158.
- **Exploring Northeast Utah's Dinosaurland:** This is the real *Jurassic Park*—no special effects needed. First stop: Utah Field House of Natural History State Park in Vernal. Stroll through the Dinosaur Garden to admire the 18 life-size dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures. Next, head to Dinosaur National Monument to see and touch—yes, touch—real fossilized dinosaur bones. See p. 183.
- **Discovering Zion National Park:** The Junior Ranger Program, available at most national parks, is extensive here, with morning and afternoon activities for kids all summer. They'll have so much fun, they won't notice they're learning about what makes this natural wonder so special. See chapter 11.

4 The Best Hiking Trails

- **Indian Trail** (Ogden): Easily accessible from downtown Ogden, this 4.2-mile trail gets you out of town quickly, into a thick forest of spruce and fir, and onto a mountainside that offers spectacular views of Ogden Canyon, including a beautiful waterfall. See p. 118.
- **Hidden Piñon Trail, Snow Canyon State Park** (St. George): This fairly easy, self-guided nature trail will reward you with breathtaking panoramic views. Wander among lava rock, into canyons, and over rocky flatland, along a trail lined with Mormon tea, cliffrose, prickly pear cactus, banana yucca, and other wild desert plants. See p. 200.
- **Lower Emerald Pools Trail, Zion National Park:** If green is your color,

you'll love this trail—algae makes three pools glow a deep, rich shade of emerald. The first part of the trail, navigable by wheelchairs with assistance, leads through a forest to the Lower Emerald Pool, with its lovely waterfall and hanging garden. The small pool just above it is so still and calm that the reflection of the towering cliffs in the water looks like a photograph. See p. 226.

- **Navajo Loop/Queen's Garden Trail, Bryce Canyon National Park:** To truly experience magical Bryce Canyon, this not-too-difficult trail is a good way to go. Start at Sunset Point and get the hardest part out of the way first. You'll pass Thor's Hammer and wonder why it hasn't fallen, ponder the towering skyscrapers of Wall Street, and visit with majestic Queen Victoria herself—one of the park's most fanciful formations. See p. 239.
- **Petrified Forest Trail, Escalante State Park** (Escalante): Along this steep nature trail, you'll walk through a stunted forest of junipers and piñons before reaching a field strewn with colorful chunks of petrified wood. The trail offers panoramic views of the town of Escalante and the surrounding stair-step plateaus. See p. 253.

5 The Best Mountain Biking

- **Brian Head Resort:** At 11,307 feet, there may not be a lot of oxygen, but the air is pure and clear, and the biking is great—especially when you can ride a chairlift up and bike down. There are trails everywhere, each with more magnificent scenery than the last. See p. 211.
- **Dave's Hollow Trail:** Situated just outside the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park, this trail heads off into the national forest. The double track takes you through sun-dappled glades surrounded by tall ponderosa pines and spruce trees, all the way to fishing and camping at Tropic Reservoir. See p. 238.
- **Moab Slickrock Bike Trail:** A rite of passage for serious mountain bikers, this challenging yet rewarding trail takes 4 to 5 hours to complete. You'll enjoy breathtaking views of the Colorado River far below, the La Sal Mountains towering above, and the red sandstone formations of Arches National Park in the distance. See p. 285.

6 The Best Destinations for Fishing & Watersports

- **Strawberry Reservoir:** The number-one trout fishery in Utah for both cutthroat and rainbow, this gem of a lake is set magnificently among tall pines. You're really out in the woods here: The nearest town of any size is 30 miles away. So pick your spot, in the middle of the reservoir or tucked away in a quiet nook, and cast your line for dinner—you can't beat fresh-caught trout cooked over an open fire. See p. 162.
- **Jordanelle Reservoir** (in Jordanelle Sate Park, near Park City): The wide area at the dam of this boomerang-shaped reservoir is perfect for speedboats, water-skiers, and personal watercraft. The southeast end is designated for low-speed boating. Wherever you go, you'll have the beautiful Wasatch Mountains on all sides. See p. 160.
- **The Green River through Dinosaur National Monument:** The best way

to see this spectacularly desolate country is from the river, the way explorer John Wesley Powell did in 1869. Crave excitement? Run the foaming rapids. Are peace and quiet your thing? Float mindlessly in the placid waters, leaving your troubles behind. See p. 186.

- **Lake Flaming Gorge:** Smaller and more intimate than Lake Powell—and located in a gloriously colorful setting—Lake Flaming Gorge is one of Utah's real hidden treasures. You can skim the water on skis or relax topside on a houseboat. As for the fishing, if you feel like the big ones always get away, this is the place for you—they're all big here. See p. 189.
- **Lake Powell:** This sprawling lake has what seems like zillions of finger canyons reaching off the main watercourse of the Colorado River. You could spend weeks—maybe even months—water-skiing, swimming, fishing, exploring the myriad side canyons, and loafing about in the sun. See p. 269.
- **The Colorado River near Moab:** Tackle the placid stretches on your own in a canoe or kayak, or sign up with one of the outfitters and shoot the rapids. Whatever your style, a trip down the spectacular, scenic Colorado River is an adventure you won't forget. See p. 286.

7 The Best Wildlife Watching

- **Rock Cliff, Jordanelle State Park** (near Park City): More than 160 species of birds, both resident and migratory, are found here. The park is an especially good place to spot eagles and other raptors who nest locally. Boardwalks and trails traverse the riparian wetlands, giving you a chance to observe wetlands life, while reducing your ecological footprint. See p. 160.
- **Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area:** Take to the water to vie for a glimpse of the majestic bighorn sheep. The imposing beasts are sometimes seen on Kingfisher Island and near Hideout Canyon, on the north side of the reservoir, in spring and early summer. And keep your eyes peeled for the lovely osprey and rare peregrine falcon, occasionally spotted near their nests on the high rocky spires above the lake. See p. 187.
- **Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park** (near Kanab): If you climb the dunes early in the morning, you're sure to see the footprints of jackrabbits, kangaroo rats, and the occasional mule deer or coyote. But the real fun comes after dark, with the evening scorpion hunt: Follow a park ranger out onto the dunes and, using a black light, spot the luminescent creatures scurrying across the sand. See p. 213.
- **Escalante State Park** (Escalante): Willows and cottonwoods line the banks of the reservoir, one of the few wetland birding sites in southern Utah. The park is home to a wide variety of ducks, plus coots, herons, and swallows. You might also see eagles, osprey, American kestrels, and other raptors. Small creatures of the furry variety—including cottontail and blacktail jackrabbits, squirrels, and beaver—inhabit the area as well. See p. 252.

8 The Best Downhill Skiing

- **Snowbasin** (Ogden Valley): Families love Snowbasin because there's something for everyone here, no matter what your ability. The resort is particularly popular with intermediates, who love the long, easy, well-groomed cruising runs. Experts can expect challenges, such as an abundance of untracked

powder and Utah's third-highest vertical drop. See p. 129.

- **Beaver Mountain** (The Northern Wasatch Front): Visiting this small, family-oriented ski area is like going home to see the folks—it's just plain comfortable. There's no glitz, no fancy anything, just lots of personal attention, plenty of snow, and great terrain with beautifully maintained trails. See p. 130.
- **Alta** (Little Cottonwood Canyon): All serious skiers must make a pilgrimage to Alta. It offers the best skiing in the state—and some of the lightest powder in the world—especially for advanced skiers willing to hike a bit for perfect conditions. If you're not up to black-diamond level yet, don't worry: Beginners and intermediates will find plenty of cruising ground, too. See p. 140.
- **Park City and Deer Valley:** These resorts offer not only excellent powder skiing on a wide variety of terrain, but also the best shopping, nightlife, lodging, and dining in all of Utah's ski areas—and for that matter, in all of Utah. Park City is the party town; Deer Valley is its grown-up, sophisticated sibling. They're less than 5 minutes apart by road, so why not take advantage of the best of both? See p. 147 for Park City and p. 146 for Deer Valley.

9 The Best Places to Discover American Indian Culture

- **The Great Gallery in Horseshoe Canyon, Canyonlands National Park:** In a remote and hard-to-reach section of Canyonlands National Park is the Great Gallery, an 80-foot-long panel of rock art dating back several thousand years. It's one of the biggest and best prehistoric murals you'll find anywhere. See p. 303.
- **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park:** For most of us, Monument Valley *is* the Old West. We've seen it immortalized in movies, on TV, and in advertisements. The Old West may be gone, but many Navajos still call this area home. A Navajo guide can give you the Navajo perspective on this majestic land and take you to areas not otherwise open to visitors. See p. 313.
- **Hovenweep National Monument:** This deserted valley contains some of the most striking and isolated archaeological sites in the Four Corners: the remains of curious sandstone towers built more than 700 years ago. These mysterious structures keep archaeologists guessing. See p. 318.
- **Mesa Verde National Park:** The largest archaeological preserve in the country is also home to the most impressive cliff dwellings in the Southwest. The sites run the gamut from simple pit houses to extensive cliff dwellings, all fascinating to explore. See p. 320.

10 The Best Luxury Hotels

- **The Grand America Hotel** (Salt Lake City; ✆ **800/621-4505**): The newest luxury hotel in downtown Salt Lake City, the Grand America occupies an entire city block and offers top-notch service, amenities, and decor. The marriage of superb design and deluxe furnishings has resulted in exquisitely comfortable guest rooms and suites. See p. 82.
- **Hotel Monaco** (Salt Lake City; ✆ **800/294-9710**): In a marriage of class and quirk, Hotel Monaco mixes traditional and contemporary styling in rooms that captivate the senses with an eclectic array of patterns and colors. The pet-friendly Monaco will

provide goldfish to those who haven't brought Rover. See p. 83.

- **Hotel Park City** (Park City; ✆ **435/200-2000**): Inspired by the grand lodges in national parks, Hotel Park City may be the poshest lodging in Utah. The masculine guest rooms—all with sublime mountain views—feature Western decor and plenty of in-room amenities. The bathrooms are superb, with big jetted tubs and separate three-headed showers. See p. 153.
- **Stein Eriksen Lodge** (Deer Valley; ✆ **800/453-1302**): The Stein Eriksen is grandly elegant yet warm and welcoming, with cozy niches in the dignified lobby and lavishly comfortable suites. Attendants in the whirlpool, sauna, and fitness room are on hand to pamper you and attend to your every need, but they're so unobtrusive that you'll feel right at home—contentedly, luxuriously at home. See p. 152.

11 The Best Bed & Breakfasts

- **The Armstrong Mansion Bed & Breakfast** (Salt Lake City; ✆ **800/708-1333**): Housed in a four-story Queen Anne–style Victorian mansion, this elegant B&B has stained-glass windows, a carved oak staircase, and replicas of the original wall stencils. Many of the 13 luxurious rooms boast whirlpool tubs. See p. 83.
- **Alaskan Inn** (Ogden; ✆ **888/707-8600**): The wilds of Alaska have arrived in Utah, with this unique and fun bed-and-breakfast, where themed rooms and cabins transport you to a land of tundra, snow-capped peaks, tall pines, polar bears, and cascading waterfalls. See p. 120.
- **Snowberry Inn Bed & Breakfast** (near Ogden; ✆ **888/334-3466**): This log B&B is lovingly decorated with antiques and collectibles, and each bedroom has its own personality. Although the house has a wide-open design with a broad front porch, it still manages to have a cozy, homelike atmosphere; guests gather in the kitchen to sip coffee and watch, or help, as breakfast is being prepared. See p. 122.
- **Hines Mansion Luxury Bed & Breakfast** (Provo; ✆ **800/428-5636**): A Victorian mansion ripe with historic ambience, this is a wonderful place to celebrate a wedding anniversary or romantic occasion, with complimentary sparkling cider and two-person whirlpool tubs in every room. See p. 173.
- **Seven Wives Inn Bed & Breakfast** (St. George; ✆ **800/600-3737**): This was the first B&B in Utah, and it's one of the loveliest. There are no polygamists hiding in the attic anymore (see the review), but you'll feel like you've stepped back in time. The two historic 19th-century homes are outfitted with antiques, mostly Victorian and Eastlake. We love the several decks, porches, and balconies. See p. 203.
- **Sunflower Hill Luxury Inn** (Moab; ✆ **800/662-2786**): Loaded with country charm, this delightful B&B makes you feel like you're at Grandma's, where family relics surround you and handmade quilts keep you warm at night. What's more, this may be the quietest lodging in Moab, and the grassy, shady grounds are especially inviting on a hot day. See p. 289.

12 The Best Lodges

- **Red Canyon Lodge** (Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area; ✆ **435/889-3759**): Not really a lodge at all, this group of delightful 1930s cabins was remodeled in the 1990s. Your choice of TV- and telephone-free

accommodations ranges from rustic to luxurious, and some have free-standing woodstoves. The forest setting, complete with private lake, is spectacular. See p. 192.

- **Bryce Canyon Lodge** (✆ **888/297-2757**): This handsome sandstone- and ponderosa-pine lodge is the perfect place to stay while you're visiting the national park. The suites are outfitted with white wicker furniture, ceiling fans, and separate sitting rooms. But we prefer the snug cabins—the high ceilings give the impression of spaciousness, and the gas-burning stone fireplaces and log beams make them positively cozy. See p. 242.

13 The Best Restaurants

- **Bambara** (Hotel Monaco, Salt Lake City; ✆ **801/363-5454**): An ideal setting for a romantic meal, this popular restaurant brings a host of influences to the table, from Asian to Cajun. The Utah corn bisque is delectable and the filet mignon with roasted shallot-cabernet sauce melts in your mouth. See p. 87.
- **Spencer's For Steaks and Chops** (Salt Lake City; ✆ **801/238-4748**): For those of us who like top-quality steaks prepared simply but perfectly, there is no place in Utah to top Spencer's. See p. 88.
- **Lamb's Grill Cafe** (Salt Lake City; ✆ **801/364-7166**): A delightful and sometimes innovative restaurant with good food and reasonable prices—how can you beat that? Sit back in one of the cozy booths, relax, and watch the who's who of Utah parade through. See p. 89.
- **350 Main** (Park City; ✆ **435/649-3140**): A rich, romantic setting for an excellent meal, 350 Main is one of Park City's most reliable and creative restaurants. Selections are adventurous, blending French and Asian traditions to produce distinct and bold flavors. Try the black-pepper-crusted venison medallions or the Pacific ono, grilled and wasabi-seared. See p. 156.
- **Painted Pony** (St. George; ✆ **435/634-1700**): The Painted Pony is the best restaurant between Las Vegas and Salt Lake City—though its vibe is more California than Utah: The creative menu includes subtle twists on familiar dishes, such as sesame-crusted line-caught escolar. See p. 205.

14 The Best of the Performing Arts

- **Mormon Tabernacle Choir** (Salt Lake City): Hear the glorious sounds of this world-renowned choir in its home on Temple Square. When not on tour, the choir rehearses Thursday evenings and performs for TV and radio broadcasts Sunday mornings. Both events are open to the public, free of charge. See p. 92.
- **Utah Symphony** (Salt Lake City, Park City): Who'd expect to find one of the country's top symphony orchestras in Utah? Well, here it is: an excellent ensemble that tours worldwide, provides the soundtrack to films in the Sundance Summer series, and has produced numerous recordings. See p. 106.
- **Utah Shakespearean Festival** (Cedar City): To go or not to go, that is the question. If theater's your thing, go. Four of the Bard's plays, plus two by other period and contemporary playwrights, are presented each summer, and they're grand entertainment. See p. 208.

2

Planning Your Trip to Utah

This relatively quiet, relatively unknown corner of the United States is beginning to draw nationwide, even worldwide, attention. More and more people are coming—to visit the state's majestic national parks, explore its pristine wilderness, bike its slickrock trails, ski the best powder in the world, and discover the all-around charm of its cities and towns. To some, this is America as it should be—wide-open country with plenty of room to roam, plus some of the friendliest people you'll ever meet. Of course, it isn't quite that simple, but it comes close. Don't just take it from us; find out for yourself.

Utah is an easy state to visit—you can often expect to pay less for food and lodging than you would in other parts of the country, and roads are good and generally uncrowded. But once you leave the Wasatch Front—the area around Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Provo—distances between towns are long, with few services along the way. Plan your trip carefully and make reservations far in advance for popular areas such as the national parks, and for popular times, such as ski season. The following pages will help you do that and more.

The presence and influence of the Mormon Church—officially known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS)—makes visiting Utah a unique experience, from ordering an alcoholic beverage to visiting a historic home with two identical bedrooms—one for each wife. To learn more about modern Mormonism, as well as Utah's history in general, see the appendix, "Utah in Depth," at the back of this book.

1 The Regions in Brief

You can easily split Utah into three distinct regions: the Colorado Plateau, in the southern half of the state, where all those fantastic rock formations are; Rocky Mountain Utah, with rugged peaks, stately pines, deep blue lakes, and most of the state's residents; and the Great Basin Desert, the big middle-of-nowhere where you've always wanted to send that distant cousin you never really liked.

Truth be told, certain sections of Utah do just have a whole lot of nothing. So we've organized this book by destination, based on where you probably will want to go.

We start out in the **Wasatch Front.** Eighty percent of Utah's population lives in this Rocky Mountain region, the 175-mile-long north-central section of the state from Logan to Provo. **Salt Lake City** is Utah's most populous city, as well as its most cosmopolitan. It's also the international headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Temple Square is Utah's most-visited attraction. Keep in mind that Salt Lake City is still a relatively small city and not as sophisticated or glitzy as New York or Los Angeles (that may be what we like best about it). One advantage Salt Lake has

over all other Western cities its size, as any real-estate agent will tell you, is its location; within an hour's drive is some of the best downhill skiing in the United States. Here also is that mystery of nature, the **Great Salt Lake,** eight times saltier than any of the world's oceans.

That brings us to the rest of the Wasatch Front. We've designated the section that's roughly north of Salt Lake the **Northern Wasatch Front.** Here you'll find historic **Ogden; Logan,** Utah's northernmost town of any size; the national historic site where the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads met in 1869; and four ski resorts. The mountains that offer skiing in winter also provide numerous opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and biking in summer.

We call those areas that are east and south of Salt Lake City the **Southern Wasatch Front.** This region contains beautiful **Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons,** which have some of the state's best skiing, as well as great hiking and biking in the summer; **Park City,** Utah's premier ski-resort town—and a delightful destination year-round—with a historic Main Street dominated by intriguing shops and restaurants; some fun spots just outside of Park City, including a historic railroad, Strawberry Reservoir (a real gem of a lake), and several nice state parks; Robert Redford's Sundance Institute; and **Provo,** a small, conservative city that's home to Brigham Young University.

The western side of Utah, beginning west of Salt Lake City, is dominated by the vast, salty nothingness of the Great Basin Desert, which includes the pristinely white Bonneville Salt Flats, which are so flat that you can actually see the curvature of the earth here. The Flats are also famous for the land speed records set on them. This is not the sort of place you want to go for a picnic—it's hot, the water's undrinkable, and there's very little to see.

Next we head to **Northeastern Utah,** with two terrific recreational areas that creep into the adjoining states: **Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area,** which wanders into Wyoming, and nearby **Dinosaur National Monument,** which extends into Colorado. Both are what we consider "Undiscovered Utah," because they're really off the beaten path and not what most people imagine when they think of the state. We love this region, and consider it well worth a visit.

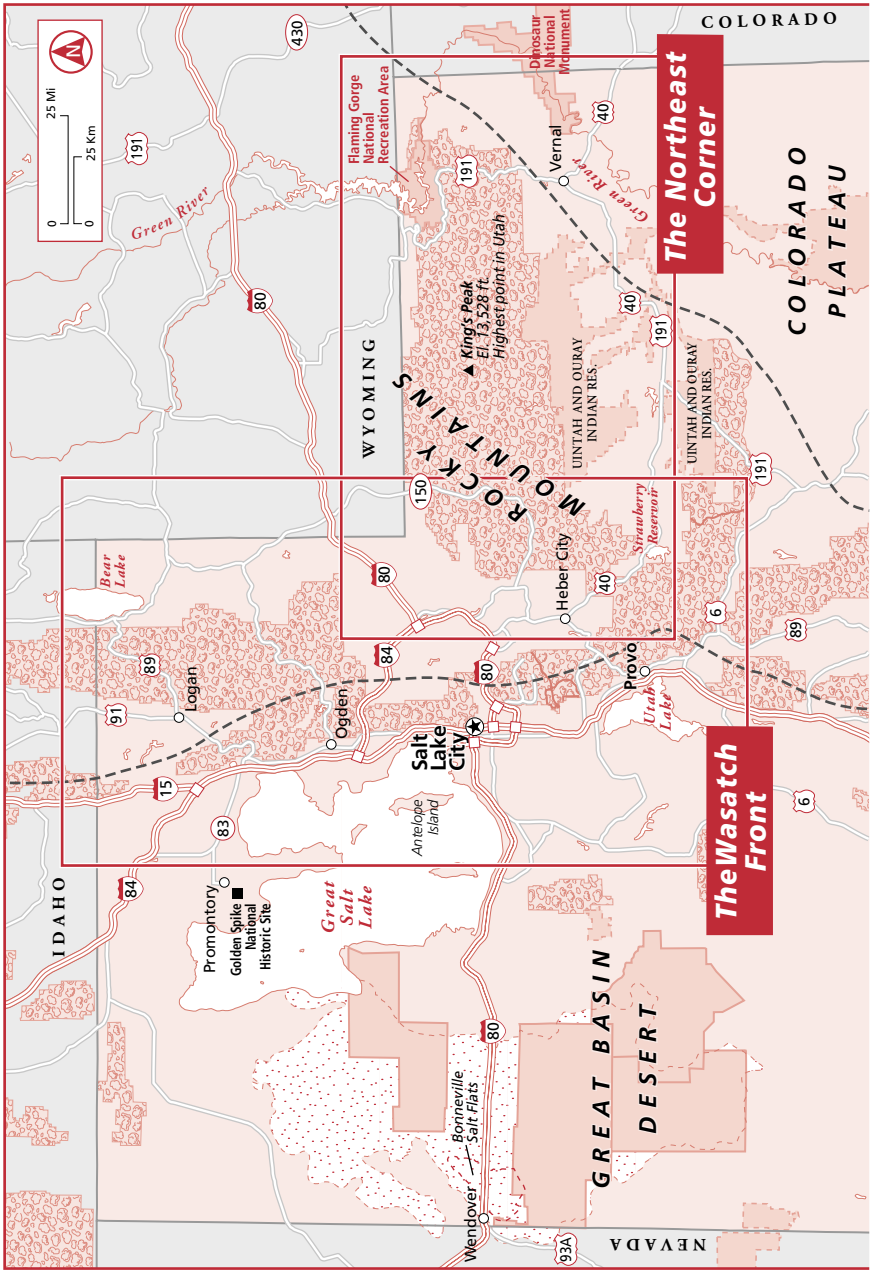
The **Colorado Plateau,** which extends along the state's entire southern border and halfway up the east side, is where all five of Utah's national parks are located, and for good reason. Ancient geologic forces, erosion, oxidation, and other natural processes have carved spectacular rock sculptures—delicate and intricate, bold and stately—and painted them in a riot of color. This is quite likely why you've come to Utah in the first place, and these chapters will help you spend your time wisely and enjoyably. Check out chapter 11 on **Zion National Park** for hints on avoiding the crowds at the state's most popular national park; and see if you agree with us that **Bryce Canyon National Park,** with its marvelous stone sculptures (called hoodoos), is the West's best. Chapter 13 explains

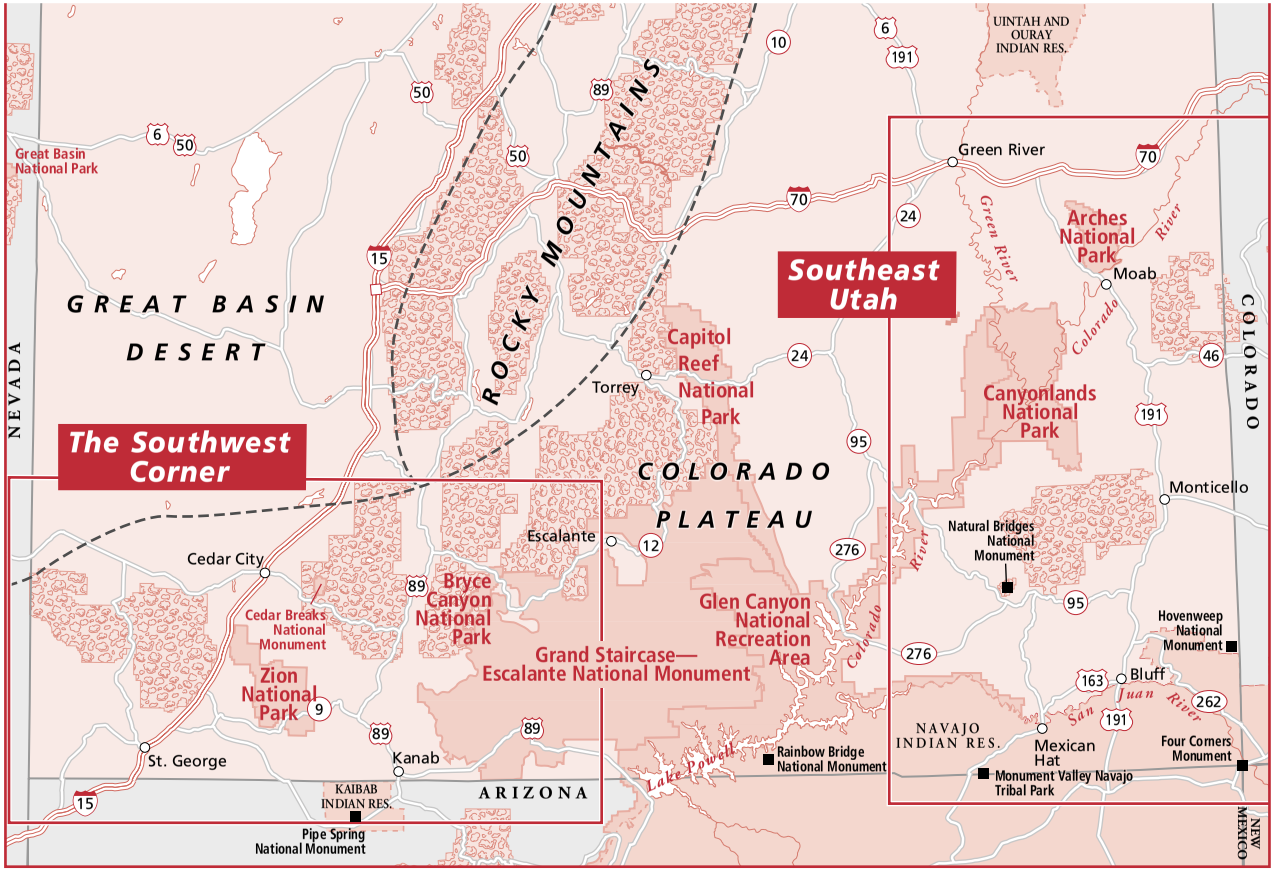
Impressions

TV you can make on the back lot, but for the big screen, for the real outdoor dramas, you have to do it where God put the West . . . and there is no better example of this than around Moab.

—John Wayne, while filming *The Comancheros* in 1961

Regions of Utah




Great Basin National Park
GREAT BASIN DESERT
NEVADA
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
UINTAH AND OURAY INDIAN RES.
Green River
Arches National Park
Moab
Green River
Colorado River
COLORADO
Southeast Utah
Capitol Reef National Park
Torrey
Canyonlands National Park
Monticello
The Southwest Corner
COLORADO PLATEAU
Escalante
Natural Bridges National Monument
Cedar City
Bryce Canyon National Park
Cedar Breaks National Monument
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Hovenweep National Monument
Grand Staircase—Escalante National Monument
Zion National Park
Bluff
San Juan River
NAVAJO INDIAN RES.
Mexican Hat
Four Corners Monument
St. George
Kanab
Rainbow Bridge National Monument
Lake Powell
Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park
KAIBAB INDIAN RES.
ARIZONA
Pipe Spring National Monument
NEW MEXICO

Destination: Utah—Red Alert Checklist

- Some attractions (such as military installations, and dams such as Flaming Gorge) have increased security. Call ahead for specifics.
- If you plan to drive through the mountains in winter, be sure to check on possible road closures first.
- If you purchased traveler's checks, have you recorded the check numbers, and stored the documentation separately from the checks?
- Did you bring your ID cards that could entitle you to discounts such as AAA and AARP cards, student IDs, and so on?
- Did you bring emergency drug prescriptions and extra glasses and/or contact lenses?
- Did you check with your cellphone company about coverage in Utah? Many parts of the state outside major cities have limited or nonexistent coverage.
- Did you leave a copy of your itinerary with someone at home?

why **Capitol Reef National Park** is one of Utah's hidden treasures; and we direct you to some of the best ways to explore eastern Utah's beautiful red-rock country in chapter 15, **"From Moab to Arches & Canyonlands National Parks."**

But the Colorado Plateau isn't just national parks. Its population center is in and around St. George, which you'll read about in chapter 10. This area offers historic Mormon sites; live theater, dance, and music; as well as skiing and the state's best golf. If you're heading in from Las Vegas, this is the first Utah town you'll see.

Utah's best destination for watersports—maybe the best in the West—is explored in chapter 14, which covers **Lake Powell and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.** A boating vacation here is the stuff that stressed-out big-city dreams are made of.

In chapter 16, **"The Four Corners Area,"** we cover Utah's southeast corner, with a few jaunts into adjacent states. Spectacular American Indian sites, such as Hovenweep National Monument, make a visit here truly worth the drive through the West's vast, empty spaces.

2 Visitor Information

For information on the state as a whole, as well as an official state map, contact the **Utah Travel Council,** 300 N. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84114 (✆ **800/200-1160** or 801/538-1030; www.utah.com).

For information on Utah's national forests, contact the **U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region,** 324 25th St., Ogden, UT 84401 (✆ **801/625-5306;** www.fs.fed.us/r4). The best source for topographic and geological maps, as well as guidebooks and other outdoor recreation information, is the **Natural Resources Map & Bookstore,** 1594 W. North Temple (P.O. Box 146100), Salt Lake City, UT 84116-6100 (✆ **888/882-4627** or 801/537-3320; www.maps.state.ut.us). The Utah State Office of the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** is at 324 S. State St., Suite 301, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 (✆ **801/539-4001;** www.ut.blm.gov). For information on Utah's state

parks, contact **Utah State Parks and Recreation,** 1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84114 (✆ **801/538-7220,** or 800/322-3770 or 801/322-3770 for campground reservations; www.stateparks.utah.gov). You can find additional resources forplanning your outdoor adventures in chapter 4.

3 Money

ATMS

The easiest and best way to get cash away from home is from an ATM (automated teller machine). The **Cirrus** (✆ **800/424-7787;** www.mastercard.com) and **PLUS** (✆ **800/843-7587;** www.visa.com) networks span the globe; look at the back of your bank card to see which network you're on, then call or check online for ATM locations at your destination. Be sure you know your personal identification number (PIN) and daily withdrawal limit before you depart. Remember that many banks impose a fee every time you use a card at another bank's ATM, and that fee can be higher for international transactions (up to $5 or more) than for domestic ones (where they're rarely more than $2). In addition, the bank from which you withdraw cash may charge its own fee. To compare banks' ATM fees within the U.S., use **www.bankrate.com**.

You can use your credit card to receive cash advances at ATMs. Keep in mind that credit card companies protect themselves from theft by limiting maximum withdrawals outside their home country, so call your credit card company before you leave home. And remember that you'll pay interest from the moment of your withdrawal, even if you pay your monthly bill on time.

TRAVELER'S CHECKS

Traveler's checks are something of an anachronism from the days before the ATM made cash accessible at any time. Given the fees you'll pay for ATM use at banks other than your own, however, you might be better off with traveler's checks if you're withdrawing money often.

You can get traveler's checks at almost any bank. **American Express** offers denominations of $20, $50, $100, $500, and (for cardholders only) $1,000. You'll pay a service charge ranging from 1% to 4%. You can also get American Express traveler's checks over the phone by calling ✆ **800/221-7282;** Amex gold and platinum cardholders who use this number are exempt from the service charge.

Visa offers traveler's checks at Citibank locations nationwide, as well as at several other banks. The service fee will set you back 1.5% to 2%; checks come in denominations of $20, $50, $100, $500, and $1,000. Call ✆ **800/732-1322** for information. AAA members can obtain Visa checks for a $9.95 fee (for checks up to $1,500) at most AAA offices or by calling ✆ **866/339-3378. MasterCard** also offers traveler's checks. Call ✆ **800/223-9920** for a location near you.

If you do choose to carry traveler's checks, keep a record of their serial

Tips Small Change

When you change money, ask for some small bills or loose change. Petty cash will come in handy for tipping and public transportation. Consider keeping the change separate from your larger bills, so that it's readily accessible and you'll be less of a target for theft.

numbers separate from your checks in the event that they are stolen or lost. You'll get a refund faster if you know the numbers.

CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are another safe way to carry money. They provide a convenient record of all your expenses, and generally offer good exchange rates. You can also withdraw cash advances from your credit cards at banks or ATMs, provided you know your PIN. If you don't know yours, call the number on the back of your card and ask the bank to send it to you. It usually takes 5 to 7 business days, though some banks will provide the number over the phone if you answer a few security questions. All major credit cards are accepted in Utah; the most commonly accepted are MasterCard and Visa. For tips and telephone numbers to call if a card is lost or stolen, go to "Lost & Found" in the "Fast Facts: Utah" section, later in this chapter.

4 When to Go

Deciding when to visit Utah depends on what you want to do and which places you want to see. Those traveling without children will likely want to avoid visiting during school vacations. In particular, stay away from ski resorts during the Christmas–New Year's holidays and avoid national parks in July and August. The best time to visit the parks and almost everything else in southern Utah is spring or fall; summer is too hot, particularly in St. George.

Utah has four seasons, but because of the wide range of elevation—from 2,200 to 13,528 feet—conditions vary considerably across the state. Generally, as in other desert states, summer days are hot but nights are cool. Winters are cold and snowy, except in southwest Utah's "Dixie" (which includes St. George), where it seldom gets very cold and snow is rare. Mountain temperatures are always pleasantly cool and can be quite cold at night, even in summer.

Average Monthly High/Low Temperatures (°F/°C) & Precipitation (inches)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Moab	Temp. (°F)	42/19	51/25	61/33	71/42	82/50	93/58	99/65	96/63	88/53	75/41	57/30	45/21
	Temp. (°C)	6/–7	11/–4	16/1	22/6	28/10	34/14	37/18	36/17	31/12	24/5	14/–1	7/–6
	Precip. (in.)	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7
Elev. 4,000 ft.													
Park City	Temp. (°F)	27/6	31/10	36/15	48/24	60/33	71/39	79/47	76/45	67/36	54/28	39/17	31/11
Mountains	Temp. (°C)	–3/–14	–1/–12	2/–9	9/–4	16/1	22/4	26/8	24/7	19/2	12/–2	4/–8	–1/–12
	Precip. (in.)	3.1	2.6	2.9	2.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.0	2.5	2.4	3.2
Elev. 8,085 ft.													
St. George	Temp. (°F)	54/27	61/32	67/37	76/44	86/52	96/61	102/68	99/66	93/57	81/45	65/34	55/27
	Temp. (°C)	12/–3	16/0	19/3	24/7	30/11	36/16	39/20	37/19	34/14	27/7	18/1	13/–3
	Precip. (in.)	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7
Elev. 2,880 ft.													
Salt Lake	Temp. (°F)	37/20	44/27	52/30	61/37	72/45	83/53	93/62	90/60	80/50	67/39	50/29	39/22
City	Temp. (°C)	3/–7	7/–3	11/–1	16/3	22/7	28/12	34/17	32/16	27/10	19/4	10/–2	4/–6
	Precip. (in.)	1.4	1.3	1.7	2.2	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.4
Elev. 4,330 ft.													

UTAH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

Sundance Film Festival, Park City and other locations. Sponsored by Robert Redford's Sundance Resort, this festival honors the best independent films with screenings and seminars. Call ✆ **801/328-3456.** Last half of January.

February

Bryce Canyon Winter Festival, Bryce. This winter celebration, with snowshoe tours and other activities, takes place amid the colorful rock formations of the Bryce Canyon National Park area. Call ✆ **438/834-5341.** Mid-February.

March

Hostler Model Railroad Festival, Ogden. Fans of model trains gather at historic Union Station, where trains of all shapes and sizes are on display; model-train collectors can locate those hard-to-find items. Call ✆ **801/394-4952.** Early March.

St. George Art Festival, St. George. This outdoor fine-art festival draws artists and visitors from all over the American West. Call ✆ **435/634-5850.** Mid-March.

April

Mountain Man Rendezvous, Ogden. A gathering of mountain men at Fort Buenaventura, with black-powder shooting contests and other early-19th-century activities. Call ✆ **801/399-8099.** Early to mid-April.

April Action Car Show, Moab. A grand display of vintage hot rods, classic cars, and more, plus a Saturday night cruise down Main Street and some fun contests. Call ✆ **800/635-6622.** Late April.

May

Golden Spike Reenactment, Golden Spike National Historic Site, Promontory. This reenactment commemorates the moment in 1869 when rail lines from the East and West coasts were joined, linking the nation. A must for historic-railroad buffs. Call ✆ **435/471-2209**. May 10.

Great Salt Lake Birding Festival, Farmington. Birders from across the country flock to this festival, which takes place at the Davis County Fair Park, midway between Salt Lake City and Ogden. Call ✆ **801/451-3286.** May.

June

Utah's Best Dam MS 150 Bike Tour, Logan. More than 500 participants pedal 150 miles along Cache Valley's back roads. The money raised goes to help in the battle against multiple sclerosis. Call ✆ **801/493-0113;** www.fightmsutah.org. Mid-June.

Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City. This professional theater festival produces several plays by William Shakespeare, plus a few contemporary offerings. Call ✆ **800/752-9849.** Late June through August.

July

Deer Valley Music Festival, Deer Valley. This festival presents a spectacular series of concerts in an equally incredible setting. Call ✆ **435/649-1000.** July to early August.

Snowbird Jazz and Blues Festival, Snowbird. Big-name musicians make this one of Utah's premier music events. Call ✆ **801/932-9542.** Late July.

Festival of the American West, Logan. A historical pageant is presented nightly; there's also a fair with traditional Old West food, music, craft demonstrations, and entertainment. Call ✆ **800/225-3378**. Late July to early August.

August

Railroader's Festival, Golden Spike National Historic Site. Reenactments of the Golden Spike ceremony, which united the nation by rail, plus a spike-driving contest, railroad handcar races, and a buffalo-chip-throwing contest. Call ✆ **435/471-2209.** Mid-August.

Utah Belly Dance Festival, Salt Lake City. Middle Eastern dancers do their thing in Liberty Park. Call ✆ **801/486-7780.** Late August.

September

Utah State Fair, Salt Lake City. This fair has live entertainment, a horse show, a rodeo, livestock judging, arts and crafts exhibits, and typical state-fair fun. Call ✆ **801/538-8400.** Early September.

Greek Festival, Salt Lake City. The music, dance, and food of Greece are featured, plus tours of the historic Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Call ✆ **801/581-7989.** Early September.

Moab Music Festival, Moab. Live classical, jazz, bluegrass, and other types of music are presented in a beautiful red-rock amphitheater and other locations. Call ✆ **435/259-7003.** Early to mid-September.

Oktoberfest, Snowbird. This is a traditional celebration, with German music, food, and, of course, beer. Call ✆ **801/933-2110.** Weekends late September through October.

October

Fall Frolic/Mountain Man Rendezvous, Ogden. A gathering of mountain men at Fort Buenaventura, with black-powder shooting contests and other early-19th-century activities. Call ✆ **801/399-8099.** Early October.

Huntsman Senior Games, St. George. This is an extremely popular Olympics-style competition for seniors, with a variety of athletic events. Call ✆ **800/562-1268.** Mid-October.

Moab Halloween Bike Fest, Moab. Guided mountain-bike tours, hill climbs, and related events make up this festival. Call ✆ **435/260-1182.** Late October.

Bison Roundup, Antelope Island State Park. Stop by the park and watch the annual bison roundup. Take binoculars and get a close-up view of the bison as they receive their annual medical exams. Call ✆ **801/773-2941.** Late October.

November

Freestyle World Cup Ski Races, Deer Valley. This event is made up of sanctioned World Cup races and demonstrations. Call ✆ **435/649-1000.** Mid-November.

Ogden Christmas Parade and Christmas Village, Ogden. A parade begins the Christmas season, and the municipal park is transformed into a Christmas village, with thousands of lights, music, and animated decorations. Call ✆ **801/629-8253.** Late November through December.

Temple Square Christmas Lights, Salt Lake City. A huge, spectacular display of Christmas lights adorns Temple Square. Call ✆ **801/240-1000.** From the Friday after Thanksgiving to January 1.

December

First Night Celebration, Ogden. This family party rings in Ogden's New Year with bands, storytelling, and arts and crafts, ending with a spectacular fireworks display. Call ✆ **801/627-8288.** December 31.

First Night New Year's Eve Celebration, Salt Lake City. This New Year's Eve party animates downtown Salt Lake City with arts and crafts, entertainment, storytelling, and other family-oriented activities, with a midnight fireworks display. Call ✆ **801/359-5118.** December 31.

5 Travel Insurance

Check your existing insurance policies and credit card coverage before you buy travel insurance. You may already be covered for lost luggage, canceled tickets, or medical expenses.

The price of travel insurance varies widely, depending on the cost and length of your trip, your age and health, and the type of trip you're taking; but expect to pay between 5% and 8% of the vacation itself. You can get estimates from various providers through **InsureMyTrip.com**. Enter information about your trip, for prices from more than a dozen companies.

TRIP-CANCELLATION INSURANCE Trip-cancellation insurance will help retrieve your money if you have to back out of a trip or depart early, or if a travel supplier goes bankrupt. Permissible reasons for trip cancellation can range from sickness to natural disasters. Trip-cancellation insurance is a good buy if you're purchasing tickets well in advance—who knows what the state of the world, or of your airline, will be in 9 months? Insurance policy details vary, so read the fine print—and make sure that your airline is on the list of carriers covered in case of bankruptcy. A good resource is **"Travel Guard Alerts,"** a list of companies considered high-risk by Travel Guard International (see website below). Protect yourself further by paying for the insurance with a credit card—by law, consumers can get their money back on goods and services not received if they report the loss within 60 days after the charge is listed on their credit card statement.

Note: Many tour operators, particularly those offering trips to remote or high-risk areas, include insurance in the total trip cost or can arrange your insurance through a partnering provider—a convenient and often cost-effective way for you to get insured. Make sure the tour company is a reputable one, and be aware that some experts suggest you avoid buying insurance from the operator with whom you're traveling. They contend it's more secure to buy from a "third party" than to put all your money in one place.

For more information, contact one of the following insurers: **Access America** (✆ 866/807-3982; www.accessamerica.com); **Travel Guard International** (✆ 800/826-4919; www.travelguard.com); **Travel Insured International** (✆ 800/243-3174; www.travelinsured.com); and **Travelex Insurance Services** (✆ 888/457-4602; www.travelex-insurance.com).

MEDICAL INSURANCE Most health plans cover you while traveling—but verify that you're insured before you depart, particularly if you're covered by an HMO.

LOST-LUGGAGE INSURANCE On domestic flights, checked baggage is covered up to $2,500 per ticketed passenger. On international flights (including U.S. legs of international trips), baggage coverage is limited to approximately $9.07 per pound, up to approximately $635 per checked bag. If you plan to check items more valuable than what's covered by the standard liability, see if your homeowner's policy covers your valuables, get baggage insurance as part of your comprehensive

Tips Quick ID

Tie a colorful ribbon or piece of yarn around your luggage handle, or slap a distinctive sticker on the side of your bag. This makes it less likely that someone will mistakenly appropriate it. And if your luggage gets lost, it will be easier to find.

travel-insurance package, or buy Travel Guard's "BagTrak" product. Don't buy insurance at the airport, where it's usually overpriced. Pack valuables or irreplaceable items in your carry-on bag, because many items (including books, money, and electronics) aren't covered by airline policies.

If your luggage is lost, immediately file a lost-luggage claim at the airport, detailing the bag's contents. Most airlines require that you report delayed, damaged, or lost baggage within 4 hours of arrival. The airlines are required to deliver luggage, once found, directly to your house or destination free of charge.

6 Health & Safety

STAYING HEALTHY

Utah's extremes—from burning desert to snow-covered mountains—can cause health problems for the ill-prepared. If you haven't been to the desert before, the heat, dryness, and intensity of the sun can be difficult to imagine. Bring a hat, strong sunblock, sunglasses with ultraviolet protection, and moisturizing lotion for dry skin. Hikers and others planning to be outdoors should carry water—at least a gallon per person, per day.

Another potential problem for short-term visitors is elevation. There's less oxygen and lower humidity in Utah's mountains, which rise to over 13,500 feet. If you have heart or respiratory problems, consult your doctor before planning a trip to the mountains. Even if you're in generally good health, you may want to ease into high elevations by changing altitude gradually. Don't fly in from sea level in the morning and plan to hike 10,000-foot Cedar Breaks National Monument that afternoon. Spend a day or two at 4,000- or 5,000-feet elevation to let your body adjust. Also, get lots of rest, avoid large meals, and drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids, especially water.

State health officials warn outdoor enthusiasts to take precautions against the Hantavirus, a rare but often fatal respiratory disease first recognized in 1993. About half of the country's 200-plus confirmed cases have been reported in the Four Corners states of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, and about 45% of the cases have been fatal. The disease is usually spread by the urine, feces, and saliva of deer mice and other rodents, so health officials recommend that campers avoid areas with signs of rodent droppings. Symptoms of Hantavirus are similar to flu, and lead to breathing difficulties and shock.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET SICK AWAY FROM HOME

If you get sick, consider asking your hotel concierge or manager to recommend a local doctor—even his or her own. You can also try the emergency room at a local hospital. Many hospitals also have walk-in clinics for emergency cases that are not life-threatening; you may not get immediate attention, but you won't pay the high price of an emergency room visit.

If you suffer from a chronic illness, consult your doctor before your departure. For conditions like epilepsy, diabetes, or heart problems, wear a **MedicAlert identification tag** (✆ **888/633-4298;** www.medicalert.org), which will immediately alert doctors to your condition and give them access to your records through MedicAlert's 24-hour hot line.

Pack **prescription medications** in your carry-on luggage, and carry prescription medications in their original containers with pharmacy labels—otherwise they won't make it through airport security. Also carry copies of your prescriptions in case you lose your pills or run out. You may wish to bring an extra pair of contact lenses or prescription glasses.

Avoiding "Economy Class Syndrome"

Deep vein thrombosis, or as it's know in the world of flying, "economy-class syndrome," is a blood clot that develops in a deep vein. A potentially deadly condition, it can be caused by sitting in cramped conditions—such as an airplane seat—for too long. During a flight (especially a long one), get up, walk around, and stretch your legs every 60 to 90 minutes to keep your blood flowing. Other preventative measures include frequent flexing of the legs while sitting, drinking lots of water, and avoiding alcohol and sleeping pills. If you have a history of deep-vein thrombosis, heart disease, or another condition that puts you at high risk, some experts recommend wearing compression stockings or taking anticoagulants when you fly; always consult your physician. Symptoms include leg pain or swelling, or even shortness of breath.

For domestic trips, most reliable health-care plans provide coverage if you get sick away from home.

STAYING SAFE

While there are many reasons to visit Utah, the two cited most often are visiting historic sites and exploring the magnificent outdoors—especially the five national parks. However, visiting historic sites and participating in outdoor activities can lead to accidents.

When visiting such historic sites as ghost towns, gold mines, and railroads, remember that they were likely built more than 100 years ago, when safety standards were extremely lax, if they existed at all. Never enter abandoned buildings, mines, or rail cars on your own. When touring historic attractions, use common sense and don't be afraid to ask questions.

Walkways in mines are often uneven, poorly lit, and sometimes slippery due to seeping groundwater that can stain your clothing with its high iron content. In old buildings, be prepared for steep, narrow stairways, creaky floors, and low ceilings and doorways. Steam trains are wonderful as long as you remember that steam is very hot, oil and grease can ruin your clothing, and, at the very least, soot will make you very dirty.

As you head into the great outdoors, bear in mind that injuries often occur when people fail to follow instructions. Take heed when the experts tell you to stay on established ski trails, hike only in designated areas and carry rain gear, and wear a life jacket when rafting. Mountain weather can be fickle, and many beautiful spots are in remote areas. Be prepared for sudden changes in temperature at any time of year, and watch out for summer afternoon thunderstorms that can leave you drenched and shivering in minutes.

ECO-TOURISM

The **International Ecotourism Society** (TIES) defines eco-tourism as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people." Eco-friendly travel tips, statistics, touring companies, and associations are listed by destination under "Travel Choice"—at the TIES website, www.ecotourism.org. **Eco-travel.com**, part online magazine and part eco-directory, lets you search touring companies by category: water-based, land-based, spiritually oriented, and so on. Also, **Conservation International** (www.conservation.org), which, with *National Geographic Traveler,* annually presents **World Legacy Awards** (www.wlaward.org) to those travel tour operators, businesses, organizations, and places that have made a significant contribution to sustainable tourism.

7 Specialized Travel Resources

TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES

Most disabilities shouldn't stop anyone from traveling, and those with disabilities should find Utah a generally easy place to get around. Many state and national parks have at least one wheelchair-accessible trail. Some historic buildings, however, are not wheelchair accessible—check before going. The Utah information and referral line for people with disabilities is ✆ **800/333-8824** or visit www.accessut.org.

The federal government offers a **Golden Access Passport** that gives free lifetime entrance to properties administered by the National Park Service and other federal agencies—national parks, monuments, historic sites—for all persons who are visually impaired or permanently disabled. You may pick up the passport at any NPS entrance by showing proof of medically determined disability and eligibility for benefits under federal law. In addition to free entry, the Golden Access Passport also offers a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for such facilities as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching, and tours. For more information, go to www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm or call ✆ **888/467-2757.**

Many travel agencies offer customized tours and itineraries for travelers with disabilities. **Flying Wheels Travel** (✆ **507/451-5005;** www.flyingwheelstravel.com) offers escorted tours and cruises that emphasize sports as well as private tours in minivans with lifts. **Access-Able Travel Source** (✆ **303/232-2979;** www.access-able.com) offers extensive access information and advice for traveling around the world with disabilities. **Accessible Journeys** (✆ **800/846-4537** or 610/521-0339; www.disabilitytravel.com) caters to slow walkers, wheelchair travelers, and their families and friends.

Avis Rent a Car has an "Avis Access" program that offers a dedicated 24-hour toll-free number (✆ **888/879-4273**) for customers with special travel needs; cars with swivel seats, spinner knobs, and hand controls; and accessible bus service.

Organizations that assist disabled travelers include **MossRehab** (www.mossresourcenet.org), which provides a library of accessible-travel resources online; the **American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)** (✆ **800/232-5463;** www.afb.org), a referral resource for the blind or visually impaired that includes information on traveling with Seeing Eye dogs; and **SATH** (Society for Accessible Travel & Hospitality) (✆ **212/447-7284;** www.sath.org; annual membership fees: $45 adults, $30 seniors and students), which offers a wealth of travel resources for all types of disabilities and informed recommendations on destinations, access guides, travel agents, tour operators, vehicle rentals, and companion services. **AirAmbulanceCard.com**, partnered with SATH, allows you to preselect top-notch hospitals in case of an emergency, among other benefits ($195 a year, $295 per family).

For more information specifically targeted to travelers with disabilities, the community website **iCan** (www.icanonline.net/channels/travel) has destination guides and several regular columns on accessible travel. Also check out the quarterly magazine ***Emerging Horizons*** (www.emerginghorizons.com; $14.95 per year, $19.95 outside the U.S.); and ***Open World*** magazine, published by SATH (see above; $13 per year, $21 outside the U.S.).

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELERS

Utah is a conservative state, and most residents don't approve of homosexuality; in fact many residents believe that it's a sin. However, Utahns also have a firm belief in personal freedom, and will generally grant gay and lesbian travelers the same treatment as any other travelers.

The **Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Utah,** 361 N. 300 West, in Salt Lake City (✆ **888/874-2743** or 801/539-8800; www.glccu.com), is a community center, coffeehouse, and information center for gays and lesbians.

The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) (✆ **800/448-8550** or 954/776-2626; www.iglta.org) is the trade association for the gay and lesbian travel industry, and offers an online directory of gay- and lesbian-friendly travel businesses; go to their website and click on "Members."

Many agencies offer tours and travel itineraries specifically for gay and lesbian travelers. **Above and Beyond Tours** (✆ **800/397-2681;** www.abovebeyondtours.com) is the exclusive gay and lesbian tour operator for United Airlines. **Now, Voyager** (✆ **800/255-6951;** www.nowvoyager.com) is a well-known San Francisco–based, gay-owned and operated travel service. **Olivia Cruises & Resorts** (✆ **800/631-6277**; www.olivia.com) charters entire resorts and ships for exclusive lesbian vacations and offers smaller group experiences for both gay and lesbian travelers. (In 2005, tennis great Martina Navratilova was named Olivia's official spokesperson.)

Gay.com Travel (✆ **800/929-2268** or 415/644-8044; www.gay.com/travel or www.outandabout.com), is an excellent online successor to the popular ***Out & About*** print magazine. It provides frequently updated information about gay-owned, gay-oriented, and gay-friendly lodging, dining, sightseeing, nightlife, and shopping establishments in destinations worldwide. It also offers trip-planning information for gay and lesbian travelers for more than 50 destinations along various themes, ranging from Sex & Travel to Vacations for Couples.

SENIOR TRAVEL

Many Utah lodgings offer senior discounts, and more and more restaurants, attractions, and public transportation systems offer special rates as well. Mention the fact that you're a senior when you make your travel reservations.

Members of **AARP** (formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons), 601 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20049 (✆ **888/687-2277**; www.aarp.org), get discounts on hotels, airfares, and car rentals. AARP offers a wide range of member benefits, including *AARP: The Magazine* and a monthly newsletter. Anyone over 50 can join.

The Federal government offers a **Golden Age Passport** that gives seniors 62 years or older lifetime entrance to properties administered by the National Park Service and other federal agencies—national parks, monuments, historic sites, wildlife refuges, and so on—for a one-time fee of $10, which must be paid in person at any federal recreation facility that charges an entrance fee. Besides free entry, a Golden Age Passport also offers a 50% discount on federal use fees for such facilities as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching, and tours. More information is available at www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm or call ✆ **888/467-2757.**

Many reliable agencies and organizations target the 50-plus market. **Elderhostel** (✆ **877/426-8056;** www.elderhostel.org) arranges study programs for those ages 55 and over (and a spouse or companion of any age) in the U.S. and in more than 80 countries worldwide. Most courses last 5 to 7 days in the U.S. (2–4 weeks abroad), and many include airfare, accommodations in university dormitories or modest inns, meals, and tuition.

Publications offering travel resources and discounts for seniors include: the quarterly magazine ***Travel 50 & Beyond*** (www.travel50andbeyond.com); ***Travel Unlimited: Uncommon Adventures for the Mature Traveler*** (Avalon), by Alison Gardner; ***101 Tips for Mature Travelers,*** available from Grand Circle Travel

(✆ **800/221-2610** or 617/350-7500; www.gct.com); and ***Unbelievably Good Deals and Great Adventures That You Absolutely Can't Get Unless You're Over 50*** (McGraw-Hill), by Joann Rattner Heilman.

FAMILY TRAVEL

If you have enough trouble getting your kids out of the house in the morning, dragging them thousands of miles away may seem like an insurmountable challenge. But family travel can be immensely rewarding, allowing you to see the world through the eyes of babes.

Utah is a very family-friendly state, due in large part to the strong influence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which is totally family-oriented. Many tourist attractions offer family prices that are considerably lower than the per-person rate, and also frequently schedule family events. Throughout this book, you'll find numerous attractions, lodgings, and even restaurants that are especially well suited to kids.

Additionally, state and national parks are great places for family vacations, and the national parks usually have excellent children's programs (be sure to ask about Junior Ranger programs). The state's many ski resorts all have special programs for kids.

Familyhostel (✆ **800/733-9753;** www.learn.unh.edu/familyhostel) takes the whole family, including kids ages 8 to 15, on moderately priced domestic and international learning vacations. Lectures, field trips, and sightseeing are guided by a team of academics.

Family travel websites include **Family Travel Forum** (www.familytravelforum.com), a comprehensive site that offers customized trip planning; **Family Travel Network** (www.familytravelnetwork.com), an award-winning site offering features, deals, and tips; **Traveling Internationally with Your Kids** (www.travelwithyourkids.com), which provides sound advice for long-distance and international travel with children; and **Family Travel Files** (www.thefamilytravelfiles.com), which is an online magazine and a directory of off-the-beaten-path tours and tour operators for families.

An especially good resource for families planning national park vacations is *Frommer's Family Vacations in the National Parks* (Wiley Publishing, Inc.).

TRAVELING WITH PETS

Many of us wouldn't dream of going on vacation without our pets. Under the right circumstances, it can be a wonderful experience for both you and your animals. Dogs and cats are accepted at many motels in Utah, but not as universally in resorts or more expensive hotels. Throughout this book, we've tried to consistently note those lodgings that take pets. Some properties require you to pay a fee or damage deposit, and most insist they be notified at check-in that you have a pet.

An excellent resource is **www.petswelcome.com**, which dispenses medical tips, names of animal-friendly lodgings and

Tips A Safe Pet Is a Happy Pet

Never leave a pet inside a parked car with the windows rolled up. The car heats up faster than you'd suspect, so don't do it, even for a minute. In fact, it's a good idea never to leave a pet inside a hot car even with the windows rolled down.

Make sure your pet is wearing a name tag with the name and phone number of a contact person who can take the call if your pet gets lost while you're away from home.

campgrounds, and lists of kennels and veterinarians. Other good websites are www.pettravel.com and www.travelpets.com.

Be aware that **national parks and monuments** and other federal lands administered by the National Park Service are not pet-friendly. Dogs are usually prohibited on hiking trails, must always be leashed, and in some cases cannot be taken more than 100 feet from established roads. On the other hand, **U.S. Forest Service and BLM** areas, as well as practically all of Utah's **state parks,** are pro-pet, allowing dogs on trails and just about everywhere except inside buildings.

Aside from regulations, however, it's important to be attentive to your **pet's well-being.** Just as people need extra water in Utah's hot, dry climate, so do pets. We particularly like those clever nonspill travel water bowls sold in pet stores. And keep in mind that, particularly in southern Utah's red-rock country, trails are rough, and jagged rocks can cut the pads on your dog's feet. It's a good idea to carry tweezers to remove cactus spines. Remember, too, that dogs, who usually spend most of their time sleeping, aren't used to 10-hour hikes up mountainsides, and more than one exhausted pooch has had to be carried back to camp by its owner.

8 Planning Your Trip Online

SURFING FOR AIRFARES

The "big three" online travel agencies, **Expedia.com, Travelocity.com,** and **Orbitz.com** sell most of the air tickets bought on the Internet. (Canadian travelers should try expedia.ca and Travelocity.ca; U.K. residents can go for expedia.co.uk and opodo.co.uk.). **Kayak.com** is also gaining popularity and uses a sophisticated search engine (developed at MIT). Each has different business deals with the airlines and may offer different fares on the same flights, so it's wise to shop around. Expedia, Kayak, and Travelocity will also send you **e-mail notification** when a cheap fare becomes available to your favorite destination. Of the smaller travel-agency websites, **SideStep** (www.sidestep.com) has gotten the best reviews from Frommer's authors. The website (with optional browser add-on) purports to "search 140 sites at once," but in reality only beats competitors' fares as often as other sites do.

Also remember to check **airline websites,** especially those for low-fare carriers such as Southwest (our favorite), JetBlue, AirTran, WestJet, or Ryanair, whose fares are often misreported or simply missing from travel agency websites. Even with major airlines, you can often shave a few bucks from a fare by booking directly through the airline and avoiding a travel agency's transaction fee. But you'll get these discounts only by **booking online:** Most airlines now offer online-only fares that even their phone agents know nothing about. For the websites of airlines that fly to Utah, go to "Getting There," p. 32.

Great **last-minute deals** are available through free weekly e-mail services provided directly by the airlines. Most of these are announced on Tuesday or Wednesday and must be purchased online. Most are only valid for travel that weekend, but some (such as Southwest's) can be booked weeks or months in advance. Sign up for weekly e-mail alerts at airline websites or check mega-sites that compile comprehensive lists of last-minute specials, such as **Smarter Travel** (smartertravel.com). For last-minute trips, **site59.com** and **lastminutetravel.com** in the U.S. and **lastminute.com** in Europe often have better air-and-hotel package deals than the major-label sites.

If you're willing to give up some control over your flight details, use what is called an **"opaque" fare service** like **Priceline** (www.priceline.com; www.priceline.co.uk

for Europeans) or its smaller competitor **Hotwire** (www.hotwire.com). Both offer rock-bottom prices in exchange for travel on a "mystery airline" at a mysterious time of day, often with a mysterious change of planes en route. The mystery airlines are all major, well-known carriers—and the possibility of being sent from Philadelphia to Chicago via Tampa is remote; the airlines' routing computers have gotten a lot better than they used to be. Your chances of getting a 6am or 11pm flight, however, are still pretty high. Hotwire tells you flight prices before you buy; Priceline usually has better deals than Hotwire, but you have to play their "name our price" game. If you're new at this, the helpful folks at **BiddingForTravel** (www.biddingfortravel.com) do a good job of demystifying Priceline's prices and strategies. Priceline and Hotwire are great for flights within North America and between the U.S. and Europe. But for flights to other parts of the world, consolidators will almost always beat their fares. ***Note:*** In 2004 Priceline added nonopaque service to its roster. You now have the option to pick exact flights, times, and airlines from a list of offers—or opt to bid on opaque fares as before.

SURFING FOR HOTELS

Shopping online for hotels is usually done one of two ways: by booking through the hotel's own website or through an independent booking agency (or a fare-service agency like Priceline; see below). These Internet hotel agencies have multiplied in mind-boggling numbers of late, competing for the business of millions of consumers surfing for accommodations around the world. This competitiveness can be a boon to consumers who have the patience and time to shop and compare the online sites for good deals—but shop you must, for prices can vary considerably from site to site. And keep in mind that hotels at the top of a site's listing may be there only because they paid money to get placement.

Of the "big three" sites, **Expedia** offers a long list of special deals and "virtual tours" or photos of available rooms so you can see what you're paying for (a feature that helps counter the claims that the best rooms are often held back from bargain-booking websites). **Travelocity** posts unvarnished customer reviews and ranks its properties according to the AAA rating system. **Trip Advisor** (www.tripadvisor.com) is another excellent source of unbiased user reviews of hotels around the world. While even the finest hotels can inspire a misleadingly poor review from a picky or crabby traveler, the body of user opinions, when taken as a whole, is usually a reliable indicator.

Other reliable online booking agencies include **Hotels.com** and **Quikbook.com**. An excellent free program, **TravelAxe** (www.travelaxe.net), can help you search multiple hotel sites at once, even ones you may never have heard of—and conveniently lists the total price of the room, including the taxes and service charges. Another booking site, **Travelweb** (www.travelweb.com), is partly owned by the hotels it represents (including the Hilton, Hyatt, and Starwood chains) and is therefore plugged directly into the hotels' reservations systems—unlike independent online agencies, which have to fax or e-mail the hotel with reservation requests, a good portion of which get misplaced in the shuffle. More than once, travelers have arrived at the hotel, only to be told that they have no reservation. To be fair, many of the major sites are undergoing improvements in service and ease of use, and Expedia will soon be able to plug directly into the reservations systems of many hotel chains—which is good news for consumers. In the meantime, it's a good idea to **get a confirmation number** and **make a printout** of any online booking transaction.

Frommers.com: The Complete Travel Resource

For an excellent travel-planning resource, we highly recommend **Frommers.com** (www.frommers.com), voted Best Travel Site by *PC Magazine*. We're a little biased, of course, but we guarantee that you'll find the travel tips, reviews, monthly vacation giveaways, bookstore, and online-booking capabilities thoroughly indispensable. Among the special features are our popular **Destinations** section, where you'll get expert travel tips, hotel and dining recommendations, and advice on the sights to see for more than 3,500 destinations around the globe; the **Frommers.com Newsletter,** with the latest deals, travel trends, and money-saving secrets; our **Community** area featuring **Message Boards,** where Frommer's readers post queries and share advice (sometimes even our authors show up to answer questions); and our **Photo Center,** where you can post pics and share vacation tips. When your research is finished, the **Online Reservations System** (www.frommers.com/book_a_trip) takes you to Frommer's preferred online partners for booking your vacation at affordable prices.

In the opaque website category, **Priceline** and **Hotwire** are even better for hotels than for airfares; through both, you're allowed to pick the neighborhood (Priceline even covers hotels in Europe and Asia) and quality level of the hotel before paying. It's much better, though, at securing five-star lodging for three-star prices than at finding anything at the bottom of the scale. On the down side, many hotels stick Priceline guests in their least desirable rooms. Be sure to go to the BiddingForTravel website (see above) before bidding on a hotel room on Priceline; it features a fairly up-to-date list of hotels that Priceline uses in major cities. For both Priceline and Hotwire, you pay upfront, and the fee is nonrefundable. ***Note:*** Some hotels do not provide loyalty program credits or points or other frequent-stay amenities when you book a room through opaque online services.

SURFING FOR RENTAL CARS

For booking rental cars online, the best deals are usually found at rental-car company websites, although all the major online travel agencies also offer rental-car reservations services. Priceline and Hotwire work well for rental cars, too; the only "mystery" is which major rental company you get, and for most travelers the difference between Hertz, Avis, and Budget is negligible.

TRAVEL BLOGS & TRAVELOGUES

More and more travelers are writing travel Web logs, or **blogs,** to chronicle their journeys online. You can search for blogs at **Travelblog.com** or post your own travelogue at **Travelblog.org**. For blogs that cover general travel news and highlight various destinations, try **Writtenroad.com** or Gawker Media's snarky **Gridskipper.com**. For more literary travel essays, try "Wanderlust," Salon.com's travel section and **Worldhum.com**, which also has an extensive list of other travel-related journals, blogs, online communities, newspaper coverage, and bookstores.

9 The 21st-Century Traveler

INTERNET ACCESS AWAY FROM HOME

Travelers have any number of ways to check their e-mail and access the Internet on the road. Of course, using your own laptop—or even a PDA (personal digital assistant) or electronic organizer with a modem—gives you the most flexibility. But even if you don't bring a computer, you can still access your e-mail accounts from cybercafes.

WITHOUT YOUR OWN COMPUTER

It's hard nowadays to find a city that *doesn't* have a few cybercafes. Although there's no definitive directory for cybercafes—these are independent businesses, after all—some places to start looking are at **www.cybercaptive.com** and **www.cybercafe.com**. Aside from specific cybercafes, most **hostels** have at least one computer with Internet access. And most **public libraries** offer access free or for a small charge. Avoid **hotel business centers** unless you're willing to pay exorbitant rates.

Most major airports now have **Internet kiosks** scattered throughout their gates. These kiosks, which you'll also see in shopping malls, hotel lobbies, and tourist information offices around the world, give you basic Web access for a per-minute fee that's usually higher than cybercafe prices. The kiosks' clunkiness and high price, however, make them less than ideal.

To retrieve your e-mail, ask your **Internet Service Provider (ISP)** if it has a Web-based interface tied to your existing e-mail account. If your ISP doesn't have such an interface, you can use the free **mail2web** service (www.mail2web.com) to view and reply to your home e-mail. For more flexibility, you may want to open a free, Web-based e-mail account with **Yahoo! Mail** (http://mail.yahoo.com). (Microsoft's Hotmail is another popular option, but Hotmail has severe spam problems.) Your home ISP may be able to forward your e-mail to the Web-based account automatically.

If you need to access files on your office computer, look into a service called **GoToMyPC** (www.gotomypc.com). The service provides a Web-based interface for you to access and manipulate a distant PC from anywhere—even a cybercafe—provided your "target" PC is on and has an always-on connection to the Internet (as with Road Runner cable). The service offers top-quality security, but if you're worried about hackers, use your own laptop rather than a cybercafe computer to access the GoToMyPC system.

WITH YOUR OWN COMPUTER

More and more hotels, cafes, and retailers are signing on as Wi-Fi (wireless fidelity) "hotspots," where you can get a high-speed connection without cable wires, networking hardware, or a phone line (see below). You can get Wi-Fi connection one of several ways. Many laptops today have built-in Wi-Fi capability (an 802.11b wireless Ethernet connection). Mac owners have their own networking technology, Apple AirPort. For those with older computers, you can plug in an 802.11b/**Wi-Fi card** (around $50). You can sign up for personal wireless access service much as you do for cellphone service, through a plan offered by one of the several companies that have made wireless service available in public places, primarily in the U.S., U.K., and Japan. **T-Mobile Hotspot** (www.t-mobile.com/hotspot) serves up wireless connections at more than 1,000 Starbucks coffee shops nationwide. **Boingo** (www.boingo.com) and **Wayport** (www.wayport.com) have established networks in airports and high-class hotel lobbies. IPass providers (see below) also give you access to a few hundred wireless hotel lobby setups. Best

Digital Photography on the Road

Many travelers these days are taking vacation photographs with digital cameras. Not only are they left relatively unscathed by airport X-rays, but with digital equipment you don't need to lug around armloads of film. In fact, you don't even need to carry your laptop to download the day's images and make room for more. With a **media storage card,** sold by all major camera dealers, you can store hundreds of images in your camera. These "memory" cards come in different configurations—from memory sticks to flash cards to secure digital cards—and different storage capacities (the more megabytes of memory, the more images a card can hold). They range in price from $30 to more than $200. (***Note:*** Each camera model works with a specific type of storage card, so you'll need to determine which one is compatible with your camera.) When you get home, you can print the images out on your own color printer; take the storage card to a camera store, drugstore, or chain retailer; or use an online service such as **Snapfish** (www.snapfish.com) to develop the images for about 25¢ a shot. You can also put together a spiffy high-quality album of all your photos at **MyPublisher.com**, for less than $1 a page.

of all, you don't need to be staying at the Four Seasons to use the hotel's network; just set yourself up on a nice couch in the lobby. (Pricing policies can be byzantine, but in general you pay around $30 a month for unlimited access, and prices are dropping as Wi-Fi access becomes more common.) To locate other hotspots that provide **free wireless networks** in cities around the world, go to **www.personaltelco.net/index.cgi/WirelessCommunities**.

For dial-up access, most business-class hotels throughout the world offer dataports for laptop modems, and a few thousand hotels in the U.S. and Europe now offer free high-speed Internet access using an Ethernet network cable. You can bring your own cables, but most hotels rent them for around $10. **Call your hotel in advance** to see what your options are.

In addition, major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have **local access numbers** allowing you to go online by placing a local call. Check your ISP's website or call its toll-free number and ask how you can use your current account away from home, and how much it will cost.

The **iPass** network also has dial-up numbers around the world. You'll have to sign up with an iPass provider, who will then tell you how to set up your computer for your destination(s). For a list of iPass providers, go to www.ipass.com and click on "Individuals Buy Now." One solid provider is **i2roam** (www.i2roam.com; ✆ **866/811-6209** or 920/235-0475).

When in doubt, bring a **connection kit** with the appropriate power and phone adapters, a spare phone cord, and a spare Ethernet network cable.

USING A CELLPHONE ACROSS THE U.S.

Just because your cellphone works at home doesn't mean it'll work elsewhere in the country (thanks to our nation's fragmented cellphone system). It's a good bet that your phone will work in major cities, but take a look at your wireless company's coverage map on its website before heading out; T-Mobile, Sprint, and Nextel are particularly weak in rural areas. If you need to stay in touch where your phone won't work, **rent** a phone that does from **InTouch USA,** which even delivers to

Online Traveler's Toolbox

Veteran travelers usually carry some essential items to make their trips easier. Following is a selection of handy online tools to bookmark and use.

- **Airplane Seating and Food.** Find out which seats to reserve and which to avoid (and more) on all major domestic airlines at www.seatguru.com. And check out the type of meal (with photos) you'll likely be served on airlines around the world at www.airlinemeals.net.
- **Intellicast** (www.intellicast.com) and **Weather.com** (www.weather.com). Give weather forecasts for all 50 states and for cities around the world.
- **Mapquest** (www.mapquest.com). This best of the mapping sites lets you choose a specific address or destination and, in seconds, returns a map and detailed directions.
- **Time and Date** (www.timeanddate.com). See what time (and day) it is anywhere in the world.
- **Visa ATM Locator** (www.visa.com), for locations of PLUS ATMs worldwide, or **MasterCard ATM Locator** (www.mastercard.com), for locations of Cirrus ATMs worldwide.

hotels (✆ **800/872-7626;** www.intouchglobal.com) or a rental-car location, but beware that you'll pay $1 a minute or more for airtime.

If you're venturing deep into national parks and other really out-of-the-way places, you may want to rent a **satellite phone ("satphone"),** which, unlike a cellphone, connects to satellites rather than ground-based towers. Unfortunately, you'll pay at least $2 per minute to use the phone, and it only works where you can see the horizon (that is, usually not indoors or in deep canyons such as those in Zion National Park). In North America, you can rent Iridium satellite phones from **RoadPost** (www.roadpost.com; ✆ **888/290-1606** or 905/272-5665). InTouch USA (see above) offers a wider range of satphones but at higher rates.

If you're not from the U.S., you'll be appalled at the poor reach of our **GSM (Global System for Mobiles) wireless network,** which is used by much of the rest of the world. Your phone will probably work in most major U.S. cities; it definitely won't work in many rural areas. (To see where GSM phones work in the U.S., check out www.t-mobile.com/coverage/national_popup.asp.) You may be able to send SMS (text messaging) home—much cheaper than making international calls. Assume nothing—call your service provider and get the full scoop.

10 Getting There

BY PLANE

Utah's only major airport is **Salt Lake City International Airport** (✆ **800/595-2442** or 801/575-2400; www.slcairport.com), located just north of I-80 at exit 115, on the west side of the city. Airlines serving the airport include **American** (✆ 800/433-7300; www.aa.com), **America West** (✆ 800/235-9292; www.americawest.com), **Continental** (✆ 800/523-3273; www.continental.com), **Delta/SkyWest** (✆ 800/221-1212; www.delta.com),

Frontier (✆ 800/432-1359; www.frontierairlines.com), **JetBlue** (✆ 800/538-2583; www.jetblue.com); **Northwest** (✆ 800/225-2525; www.nwa.com), **Southwest** (✆ 800/435-9792; www.southwest.com), and **United** (✆ 800/864-8331; www.united.com).

An alternative for visitors planning to go to southern Utah is to fly into **McCarran International Airport** in Las Vegas, Nevada (✆ **702/261-5211;** www.mccarran.com), which is only 120 miles southwest of St. George. Budget-conscious travelers should check airline and vehicle-rental prices at both airports to see which will provide the better deal for their particular circumstances.

GETTING THROUGH THE AIRPORT

With the federalization of airport security, screening procedures at U.S. airports are more stable and consistent than ever. Generally, you'll be fine if you arrive at the airport **1 hour** before a domestic flight and **2 hours** before an international flight; if you show up late, tell an airline employee who may whisk you to the front of the line.

Bring a **current, government-issued photo ID** such as a driver's license or passport. Keep your ID at the ready to present at check-in, the security checkpoint, and, rarely, the gate. (Children under 18 do not need government-issued photo IDs for domestic flights, but they do for international flights to most countries.)

In 2003, the TSA phased out **gate check-in** at all U.S. airports. Passengers with e-tickets, which have made paper tickets nearly obsolete, can beat the ticket-counter lines by using airport **electronic kiosks** or even **online check-in** from their home computers. Online check-in involves logging on to your airline's website, accessing your reservation, and printing out your boarding pass—the airline may even offer you bonus miles to do so! If you're using a kiosk at the airport, it's preferable to have the credit card you used to book the ticket or your frequent-flier card. Print your boarding pass from the kiosk and proceed to the security checkpoint with the pass and a photo ID. If you're checking bags or looking to snag an exit-row seat, you will be able to do so using most airline kiosks. Even the smaller airlines are employing the kiosk system, but always call your airline to make sure these alternatives are available. **Curbside check-in** is also a good way to avoid lines, although a few airlines still don't allow it; call ahead for your airline's policy.

Security checkpoint lines are getting shorter than they were during 2001 and 2002, but an orange alert, suspicious passenger, or high passenger volume can still make for a long wait. If you have trouble standing for long periods of time, tell an airline employee; the airline will provide a wheelchair. Speed up security by **not wearing metal objects** such as big belt buckles. If you've got metallic body parts, a note from your doctor can prevent a long chat with the security screeners. Keep in mind that only **ticketed passengers** are allowed past security, except for people escorting the disabled or children.

Federalization has stabilized **what you can carry on** and **what you can't.** The general rule is that sharp things are out, nail clippers are okay, and food and beverages must pass through the X-ray machine—but security screeners can't make you drink from your coffee cup. Bring food in your carry-on, as explosive-detection machines used on checked luggage have been known to mistake food (especially chocolate, for some reason) for bombs. Travelers in the U.S. are allowed one carry-on bag, plus a "personal item" such as a purse, briefcase, or laptop bag. Carry-on hoarders can stuff all sorts of things into a laptop bag; as long as it has a laptop in it, it's still considered a

Tips Don't Stow It—Ship It

If ease of travel is your main concern, and money is no object, consider shipping your luggage and sports equipment with one of the growing number of luggage-service companies that pick up, track, and deliver travel bags (often through couriers such as Federal Express). Traveling luggage-free, however convenient, isn't cheap: One-way overnight shipping can cost from $100 to $200, depending on what you're sending. Still, for some people, especially the elderly or infirm, it's a sensible option. Specialists in door-to-door luggage delivery include **Virtual Bellhop** (www.virtualbellhop.com), **SkyCap International** (www.skycapinternational.com), **Luggage Express** (www.usxpluggage express.com), and **Sports Express** (www.sportsexpress.com).

personal item. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has issued a list of restricted items; check at www.tsa.gov/public/index.jsp for details.

Airport screeners may decide that your checked luggage warrants a hand search. You can now purchase luggage locks that allow screeners to open and relock a checked bag if hand searching is necessary. Look for Travel Sentry certified locks at luggage or travel shops and Brookstone stores (or online at www.brookstone.com). Luggage inspectors can open these TSA-approved locks with a special code or key—rather than having to cut them off the suitcase, as they normally do to conduct a hand search. For more information on the locks, visit www.travelsentry.org.

FLYING FOR LESS: TIPS FOR GETTING THE BEST AIRFARE

Passengers sharing the same airplane cabin rarely pay the same fare. Travelers who are forced to purchase tickets at the last minute, change their itinerary at a moment's notice, or fly one-way often get stuck paying the premium rate. Here are some ways to keep your airfare costs down.

- Passengers who can either book their ticket **long in advance or be flexible at the last minute,** or who **fly midweek** or **at less-trafficked hours** may pay a fraction of the full fare. If your schedule is flexible, say so, and ask if you can secure a cheaper fare by changing your flight plans.
- Search **the Internet** for cheap fares (see "Planning Your Trip Online, earlier in this chapter").
- Keep an eye on local newspapers for **promotional specials** or **fare wars,** when airlines lower prices on their most popular routes. You rarely see fare wars offered for peak travel times, but if you can travel in the off-months, you may snag a bargain.
- **Consolidators,** also known as bucket shops, are great sources for international tickets, although they usually can't beat Internet fares within North America. Start by looking in the Sunday newspaper travel sections; U.S. travelers should focus on the *New York Times, Los Angeles Times,* and *Miami Herald.* ***Beware:*** Bucket shop tickets are usually nonrefundable or rigged with stiff cancellation penalties, often as high as 50% to 75% of the ticket price, and some put you on charter airlines, which may leave at inconvenient times and experience delays. Several reliable consolidators are available online. **STA Travel** has been the world's lead consolidator for students since purchasing Council Travel, but their fares are competitive

for travelers of all ages. **ELTExpress (Flights.com)** (✆ **800/TRAV-800;** www.eltexpress.com) has excellent fares worldwide, particularly to Europe. They also have "local" websites in 12 countries. **FlyCheap** (✆ **800/FLY-CHEAP;** www.1800flycheap.com) is owned by package-holiday megalith MyTravel and has especially good fares to sunny destinations. **Air Tickets Direct** (✆ **800/778-3447;** www.airticketsdirect.com) is based in Montreal and leverages the currently weak Canadian dollar for low fares.

- Join **frequent-flier clubs.** Frequent-flier membership doesn't cost a cent, but it does entitle you to free flights, better seats, faster response to phone inquiries, and prompter service if your luggage is stolen or your flight is canceled or delayed, or if you want a seat change. And you don't have to fly to earn points; **frequent-flier credit cards** can earn you thousands of miles for doing your everyday shopping. With more than 70 mileage awards programs on the market, consumers have never had more options, but the system has never been more complicated—what with major airlines folding, new budget carriers emerging, and alliances forming (allowing you to earn points on partner airlines). Investigate the program details of your favorite airlines before you sink points into any one. Consider which airlines have hubs in the airport nearest you, and, of those carriers, which have the most advantageous alliances, given your most common routes. To play the frequent-flier game to your best advantage, consult Randy Petersen's **Inside Flyer** (www.insideflyer.com). Petersen and friends review all the programs in detail and post regular updates on changes in policies and trends. Petersen will also field direct questions (via e-mail) if a partner airline refuses to redeem points, for instance, or if you're still not sure which program is best for you. It's well worth the $12 annual online subscription fee.

BY CAR

About 80% of Utah's visitors arrive by car, in part because it's so easy: The state is accessed by **I-80** from the west or east, **I-70** from the east, **I-15** and **I-84** from the north, and **I-15** from the southwest. Salt Lake City is 600 miles from Albuquerque, 500 miles from Denver, 430 miles from Las Vegas, and 650 miles from Phoenix. Keep in mind that there will be long distances between services when traveling in and around Utah.

Before you set out on a road trip, you might want to join the **American Automobile Association (AAA)** (✆ **800/222-4357;** www.csaa.com for Northern California, Nevada, and Utah information),

Travel in the Age of Bankruptcy

Airlines go bankrupt, so protect yourself by **buying your tickets with a credit card,** as the Fair Credit Billing Act guarantees that you can get your money back from the credit card company if a travel supplier goes under (and if you request the refund within 60 days of the bankruptcy). **Travel insurance** can also help, but make sure it covers against "carrier default" for your specific travel provider. And be aware that if a U.S. airline goes bust mid-trip, a 2001 federal law requires other carriers to take you to your destination (albeit on a space-available basis) for a fee of no more than $25, provided you rebook within 60 days of the cancellation.

Flying with Film & Video

Never pack film—exposed or unexposed—in checked bags, because the new, more powerful scanners in U.S. airports can fog film. The film you carry with you can be damaged by scanners as well. X-ray damage is cumulative; the faster the film, and the more times you put it through a scanner, the more likely the damage. Film under 800 ASA is usually safe for up to five scans. If you're taking your film through additional scans, U.S. regulations permit you to demand hand inspections. In international airports, you're at the mercy of airport officials. On international flights, store your film in transparent baggies, so you can remove it easily before you go through scanners. And airports are not the only places where your camera may be scanned: Highly trafficked attractions are X-raying visitors' bags with increasing frequency.

Most photo supply stores sell protective pouches designed to block damaging X-rays. The pouches fit both film and loaded cameras. They should protect your film in checked baggage, but they also may raise alarms and result in a hand inspection.

You'll have little to worry about if you are traveling with **digital cameras.** Unlike film, which is sensitive to light, the digital camera's storage cards are not affected by airport X-rays. Still, if you plan to travel extensively, you may want to play it safe and hand-carry digital equipment or ask for a hand inspection. See "Digital Photography on the Road," p. 31.

Carry-on scanners will not damage **videotape** in video cameras, but the magnetic fields emitted by the walk-through security gateways and handheld inspection wands will. Always place your loaded camcorder on the screening conveyor belt or have it hand-inspected. Be sure your batteries are charged, as you may be required to turn the device on to ensure that it's what it appears to be.

which has hundreds of offices nationwide. The Salt Lake City office is located at 560 E. 500 South (✆ **800/541-9902** or 801/364-5615), and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm. AAA also has offices in Ogden (✆ **801/476-1666**), Orem (✆ **801/225-4801**), and near St. George (✆ **435/656-3990**). Members receive excellent maps and emergency road service, and AAA will help you plan an exact itinerary.

BY TRAIN

Amtrak's *California Zephyr* stops in several Utah towns, including Salt Lake City, on its run between Chicago and San Francisco. You can get a copy of Amtrak's national timetable from any Amtrak station, your travel agent, or by contacting Amtrak (✆ **800/USA-RAIL;** www.amtrak.com).

11 Packages for the Independent Traveler

Before you start your search for the lowest airfare, you may want to consider booking your flight as part of a travel package. Package tours are not the same thing as escorted tours. Package tours are simply a way to buy the airfare,

accommodations, and other elements of your trip (such as car rentals, airport transfers, and sometimes even activities) at the same time and often at discounted prices—kind of like one-stop shopping. Packages are sold in bulk to tour operators—who resell them to the public at a cost that usually undercuts standard rates.

One good source of package deals is the airlines themselves. Most major airlines offer air/land packages, including **American Airlines Vacations** (✆ 800/321-2121; www.aavacations.com), **Delta Vacations** (✆ 800/221-6666; www.deltavacations.com), **Continental Airlines Vacations** (✆ 800/301-3800; www.covacations.com), and **United Vacations** (✆ 888/854-3899; www.unitedvacations.com). Several big **online travel agencies**—Expedia, Travelocity, Orbitz, Site59, and Lastminute.com—also do a brisk business in packages. If you're unsure about the pedigree of a smaller packager, check with the Better Business Bureau in the city where the company is based, or go online at www.bbb.org. If a packager won't tell you where they're based, don't fly with them.

Travel packages are often advertised in the travel sections of Sunday newspapers. Or check ads in national travel magazines such as *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel Magazine, Travel & Leisure,* and *National Geographic Traveler.*

Package tours can vary by leaps and bounds. Some offer a better class of hotels than others. Some offer the same hotels for lower prices. Some offer flights on scheduled airlines, while others book charters. Some limit your choice of accommodations and travel days. You are often required to make a large payment upfront. On the plus side, packages can save you money, offering group prices but allowing for independent travel. Some even let you add on a few guided excursions or escorted day trips (also at prices lower than if you booked them yourself) without booking an entirely escorted tour.

Before you invest in a package tour, get some answers. Ask about the **accommodations choices** and prices for each. Then look up the hotels' reviews in a Frommer's guide and check their rates online for your specific dates of travel. Finally, look for **hidden expenses.** Ask whether airport departure fees and taxes, for example, are included in the total cost.

12 Escorted General-Interest Tours

Escorted tours are structured group tours, with a group leader. The price often includes everything from airfare to hotels, meals, tours, admission costs, and local transportation.

Gray Line–Innsbruck Tours, 3359 S. Main St., Suite 804 (✆ **801/534-1001;** www.grayline.com), offers several tours of Salt Lake City and the surrounding area.

American Orient Express, 5100 Main St., Suite 300, Downers Grove, IL 60515 (✆ **800/320-4206** or 630/663-4550; www.americanorientexpress.com), offers vintage train cars outfitted in polished mahogany and brass, plus dining cars decked out with china, silver, crystal, and linen, with cuisine to match. It offers a variety of tours, including several through Utah.

Well-respected national companies that offer tours to Utah's national parks and other destinations include **Maupintour** (✆ **800/255-4266;** www.maupintour.com) and **Tauck Tours** (✆ **800/788-7885;** www.tauck.com).

A number of companies also offer specialized tours for outdoor-recreation enthusiasts. See chapter 4.

Despite the fact that escorted tours require big deposits and predetermine hotels, restaurants, and itineraries, many people derive security and peace of mind

from the structure they offer. Escorted tours—whether by bus, motorcoach, train, or boat—let travelers sit back and enjoy the trip without having to drive or worry about details. They take you to the maximum number of sights in the minimum amount of time with the least hassle. They're particularly convenient for people with limited mobility and can be a great way to make new friends.

On the downside, you'll have little opportunity for serendipitous interactions with locals. The tours can be jampacked with activities, leaving little room for individual sightseeing, whim, or adventure—plus they also often focus on the heavily touristed sites, so you miss out on many a lesser-known gem.

Before you invest in an escorted tour, request a complete **schedule** of the trip to find out how much sightseeing is planned and whether you'll have enough time to relax or have an adventure of your own. Also ask about the **cancellation policy:** Is a deposit required? Can they cancel the trip if enough people don't sign up? Do you get a refund if they cancel? If *you* cancel? How late can you cancel if you are unable to go? When must you pay in full? If you choose an escorted tour, think strongly about purchasing trip-cancellation insurance, especially if the tour operator asks you to pay in advance. See "Travel Insurance," p. 21. If you plan to travel alone, find out if they'll charge a **single supplement** or whether they can pair you with a roommate.

The **size** of the group is also important to know upfront. Generally, the smaller the group, the more flexible the itinerary, and the less time you'll spend waiting for people to get on and off the bus. Find out the relevant **demographics** of the group as well. What is the age range? What is the gender breakdown? Is this mostly a trip for couples or singles?

Discuss what is included in the **price.** You may have to pay for transportation to and from the airport. A box lunch may be included in an excursion, but drinks may cost extra. Tips may not be included. Find out if you will be charged if you opt out of certain activities or meals.

Before you invest in an escorted tour, get some answers. Ask about the **accommodations choices** and prices for each. Then look up the hotels' reviews in a Frommer's guidebook and check their rates online for your specific dates of travel. You'll also want to find out what **type of room** you get. If you need a certain type of room, ask for it. Request a nonsmoking room, a quiet room, a room with a view, or whatever you fancy.

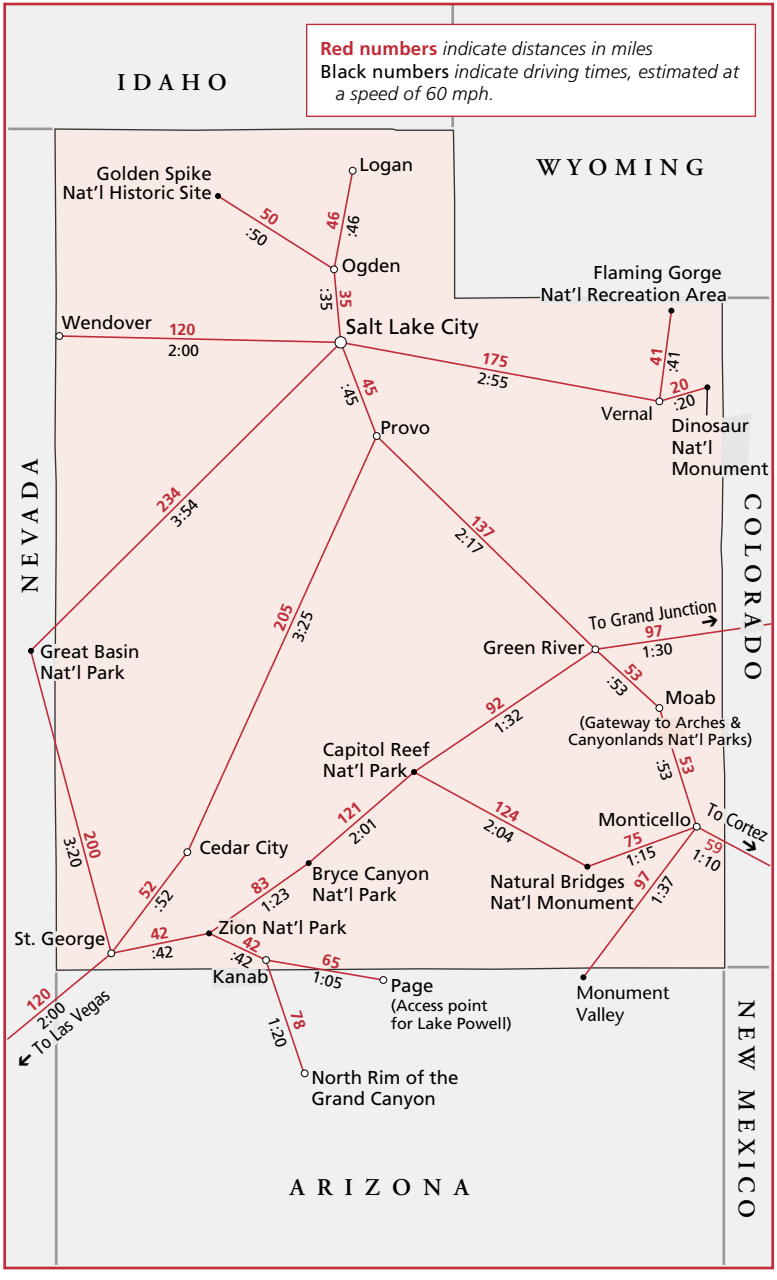
13 Getting Around Utah

BY CAR

Driving yourself is the best way to get around Utah; in fact, it's the only way to get to many destinations. However, visitors who plan to drive their own cars in Utah will find that steep mountain roads can put a severe strain on their vehicles, particularly on the cooling and braking systems. Tires rated for mud and snow are needed in most regions in winter and are required on roads leading to some major ski areas from November through March. Also keep in mind that Utah is a big state; it's a 5-hour drive from Salt Lake City to St. George, and it can easily take 6 or 7 hours to get from St. George to Moab.

CAR-RENTAL AGENCIES Car rentals are available in every sizable town and city in the state, and almost always at local airports. Widely represented agencies include **Advantage** (✆ 800/777-5500 or 801/531-1199), **Alamo** (✆ 800/327-9633 or 801/575-2211), **Avis** (✆ 800/331-1212 or 801/575-2847), **Budget** (✆ 800/527-0700 or 801/575-2500), **Dollar** (✆ 800/800-4000 or 801/575-2580), **Enterprise** (✆ 800/325-8007 or 801/537-7433), **Hertz**

Utah Driving Distances & Times



(✆ 800/654-3131 or 801/575-2683), and **National** (✆ 800/227-7368 or 801/575-2277).

INSURANCE Before you drive off in a rental car, be sure that you're insured. If you already hold a private auto insurance policy, you're most likely covered in the United States for loss of or damage to a rental car, and liability in case of injury to any other party involved in an accident. Be sure to find out whether you are covered in the area you are visiting and whether the type of car you're renting is included under your contract.

Many **major credit cards** provide some degree of coverage as well—provided they were used to pay for the rental. Call your credit card company for exact terms.

If you are **uninsured,** your credit card may provide primary coverage as long as you decline the rental agency's insurance. This means that the credit card will cover damage or theft of a rental car for the full cost of the vehicle. (In a few states, however, theft is not covered.)

Credit cards will not cover **liability,** or the cost of injury to an outside party and/or damage to an outside party's vehicle. If you do not hold an insurance policy, you may want to seriously consider purchasing additional liability insurance from your rental company. Be sure to check the terms, however; some agencies only cover liability if the renter is not at fault.

The basic insurance coverage offered by most rental companies, known as the **Loss/Damage Waiver (LDW)** or **Collision Damage Waiver (CDW),** usually covers the full value of the vehicle with no deductible if an outside party causes an accident or other damage to the rental car. Liability coverage varies according to the company policy and state law, but the minimum is usually at least $15,000. If you are at fault in an accident, however, you will be covered for the full replacement value of the car but not for liability.

DRIVING RULES Utah law requires all drivers to carry proof of insurance as well as a valid driver's license. Safety belts are required for drivers and all front-seat passengers; restraints are required for all children under 10, regardless of where they are sitting. Children under the age of 2 are required to be in federally approved safety seats. Helmet use is mandatory for motorcyclists and their passengers under the age of 18. Radar detectors are permitted.

MAPS You can get an official state highway map at State Welcome Centers or by mail (see "Visitor Information," earlier in this chapter). Otherwise, maps are available at bookstores, gas stations, or from AAA if you're a member (see "Getting There," earlier in this chapter). **State Welcome Centers** are located along I-15 near Brigham City and St. George, along I-80 near Echo Junction, along I-70 near Thompson Springs, and on U.S. 40 in Jensen (near Vernal).

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE In case of an accident or road emergency, call ✆ **911,** or AAA if you're a member (see "Getting There," earlier in this chapter).

14 Tips on Accommodations

Utah offers a variety of lodging options, from typical American chain motels to luxury hotels—primarily in Salt Lake City, Park City, and Deer Valley—plus delightful bed-and-breakfasts, rustic cabins, and some pleasant and inexpensive mom-and-pop independent motels.

The chains here are the same ones you see everywhere else in America: Best Western, Comfort, Days Inn, Embassy Suites, Hampton Inn, Hilton, Holiday Inn, Motel 6, Quality Inn, Sheraton, Sleep Inn, Super 8, Travelodge, and so on. They look about the same as those

found elsewhere, and have the same levels of service. In most cases, their rooms are little more than boring boxes of various sizes, with beds and the appropriate plumbing and heating fixtures. If you're lucky, you'll get a decent view out the window. Since enjoying the magnificent *in*doors is probably not one of the main reasons you've come to Utah, these chains might be just what the doctor ordered.

On the other hand, if you are exploring Temple Square and enjoying the numerous cultural offerings in Salt Lake City, our choice for lodging would be the Inn at Temple Square. At Bryce Canyon National Park, we love to stay in one of their delightful Bryce Lodge cabins. And if you really want to be pampered after a hard day on the slopes, you can't beat the upscale properties at Park City and Deer Valley.

Another option is a B&B. There are numerous bed-and-breakfast inns discussed in the following pages, and when you take into consideration the delicious breakfasts prepared at most of them, the rates are fairly reasonable. Why spend $90 for a boring motel room and then another $10 to $15 for breakfast when for just a bit more you can instead sleep in a handsome home, often uniquely decorated, and be served a delightful home-cooked breakfast?

Other lodging choices in Utah include cabins and a handful of small independent motels. Both are usually fairly inexpensive, although they often lack the facilities, such as pools, spas, exercise equipment, and so on, that you'll find in most chains. We still prefer the cabins and independents, though, because they're often a very good value and the rooms usually have at least some personality (can anybody actually describe the decor of the last Super 8 or Days Inn they stayed at?), and cabins, although sometimes a bit primitive, are often in beautiful settings.

SAVING ON YOUR HOTEL ROOM

The **rack rate** is the maximum rate that a hotel charges for a room. Hardly anybody pays this price, however, except in high season or on holidays. To lower the cost of your room:

- **Ask about special rates or other discounts.** Always ask whether a less expensive room than the first one quoted is available, or whether any special rates apply to you. You may qualify for corporate, student, military, senior, or other discounts. Mention membership in AAA, AARP, frequent-flier programs, or trade unions, which may entitle you to special deals as well. Find out the hotel policy on children—do kids stay free in the room or qualify for a special rate?
- **Watch for coupon books and advertised discounts.** State welcome centers, community visitor centers, and a variety of businesses (but not hotels) distribute free booklets of discount lodging coupons. These are usually for chains, and walk-ins only, so you won't be able to make a reservation. They also do not usually apply during special events. But if you can use one of these coupons, you often save 20% to 40% off the rack rate. These coupons are also available online at www.roomsaver.com. Check ads in your Sunday newspaper travel section, a good source for up-to-the-minute hotel deals, especially for lodging in resort areas.
- **Dial direct.** When booking a room in a chain hotel, you may get a better deal by calling the individual hotel's reservation desk rather than the chain's main number.
- **Book online.** Many hotels offer Internet-only discounts, or supply rooms to Priceline, Hotwire, or Expedia at rates much lower than the ones you can get through the hotel itself.

House-Swapping

House-swapping is becoming a more popular and viable means of travel; you stay in their place, they stay in yours; and you both get an authentic and personal view of the area. Try **HomeLink International** (Homelink.org), the largest and oldest home-swapping organization, founded in 1952, with over 11,000 listings worldwide ($75 for a yearly membership). **HomeExchange.com** ($50 for 6,000 listings) and **InterVac.com** ($69 for over 10,000 listings) are also reliable.

Shop around. And if you have special needs—a quiet room, a room with a view—call the hotel directly and make your needs known after you've booked online.

- **Remember the law of supply and demand.** Resort hotels are most crowded and therefore most expensive on weekends, so discounts are usually available for midweek stays. Business hotels in downtown locations are busiest during the week, so you can expect big discounts over the weekend. Many hotels have high-season and low-season prices, and booking after "high season" ends can mean big discounts.
- **Look into group or long-stay discounts.** If you come as part of a large group, you should be able to negotiate a bargain rate, since the hotel can then guarantee occupancy in a number of rooms. Likewise, if you're planning a long stay (at least 5 days), you might qualify for a discount. As a general rule, expect 1 night free after a 7-night stay.
- **Avoid excess charges and hidden costs.** When booking, ask whether the hotel charges for parking. Use your own cellphone, pay phones, or prepaid phone cards instead of dialing direct from hotel phones, which usually have exorbitant rates. And don't be tempted by the room's minibar offerings: Most hotels charge through the nose for water, soda, and snacks. Finally, ask about local taxes and service charges, which can increase the cost of a room by 15% or more. If a hotel tacks on an "energy surcharge" that wasn't mentioned at check-in or a "resort fee" for amenities you didn't use, you can often make a case for getting it removed.
- **Book an efficiency.** A room with a kitchenette allows you to shop for groceries and cook your own meals. This is a big money saver, especially for families on long stays.
- **Consider enrolling in hotel "frequent-stay" programs** to accumulate points or credits for free hotel nights, airline miles, in-room amenities, merchandise, tickets to concerts and events, discounts on sporting facilities—and even credit toward stock in the participating hotel, in the case of the Jameson Inn hotel group. Perks are awarded by many chain hotels and motels (Hilton HHonors, Marriott Rewards, Wyndham ByRequest, to name a few), but not by individual inns and B&Bs. Many chain hotels partner with other hotel chains, car-rental firms, airlines, and credit card companies to give consumers additional incentive to do repeat business.

LANDING THE BEST ROOM

Somebody has to get the best room in the house. It might as well be you. You can start by joining the hotel's frequent-guest program, which may make you eligible for upgrades. A hotel-branded credit card usually gives its owner complimentary "silver" or "gold" status in frequent-guest

programs. Always ask about a corner room. They're often larger and quieter, with more windows and light, and often cost the same as standard rooms. When you make your reservation, ask if the hotel is renovating; if it is, request a room away from the construction. Ask about nonsmoking rooms, rooms with views, rooms with twin, queen-, or king-size beds. If you're a light sleeper, request a quiet room away from the hubbub. Ask for a room that has been recently renovated or redecorated.

If you aren't happy with your room when you arrive, ask for another one. Most lodgings will be willing to accommodate you.

15 Recommended Books & Films

To catch the mood of southern Utah, we recommend Edward Abbey's *Desert Solitaire,* a nonfiction work based on time Abbey spent in Arches National Monument, before it gained national-park status. Zane Grey fans should pick up a copy of *Riders of the Purple Sage.* Set in southern Utah toward the end of the 19th century, it sheds light on the murky depths of polygamy, and the severe restraints it placed on women.

Those intrigued by the history of the American West will enjoy Pearl Baker's *The Wild Bunch at Robbers Roost,* about the area in southeastern Utah where Butch Cassidy hung out with the Sundance Kid, among others. A fun publication for film buffs is *Where God Put the West: Movie Making in the Desert,* by Bette L. Stanton. It describes Hollywood's invasion of southeastern Utah to create those great John Wayne classics. The photos alone make it worth the purchase price.

Speaking of movies, of the hundreds filmed in Utah, the two that say the most about the state are *Stagecoach* and *Wagon Master,* black-and-white classics by famed director John Ford. *Stagecoach,* released in 1939, offers spectacular scenes of Monument Valley, and stars a young John Wayne. *Wagon Master,* released in 1950 and starring Ben Johnson, Joanne Dru, and Ward Bond, was filmed in the Moab area, and tells a fictional but highly entertaining story of a Utah-bound Mormon wagon train.

FAST FACTS: Utah

American Express The American Express office is located north of Salt Lake City in Bountiful at 150 N. Main St. (✆ **801/292-8687**). It's open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Area Codes The area code is **801** in the Wasatch Valley, which includes Salt Lake City, Provo, and Ogden. Most of the rest of the state is in the **435** area code.

Business Hours Banks are usually open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm, often until 6pm on Friday; some have hours on Saturday. Small stores are usually open Monday through Saturday, with some also open on Sunday afternoon. Most department stores, discount stores, and supermarkets are open daily until 9pm. Some supermarkets are open 24 hours a day.

Car Rentals See "Getting Around Utah," p. 38.

Driving Rules See "Getting Around Utah," p. 38.

Embassies & Consulates See chapter 3, "For International Visitors."

Emergencies Dial ✆ **911** for fire, police, or ambulance. No coins are needed at pay phones for 911 calls.

Holidays See "Utah Calendar of Events," earlier in this chapter.

Hot Lines See "Useful Phone Numbers & Websites" at the end of this section.

Information See "Visitor Information," earlier in this chapter.

Internet Access Easy Internet access is coming quickly to Utah, with major tourist areas such as Moab and the ski resorts leading the way. You'll have more trouble in rural communities, although cybercafes are beginning to pop up even there, and most public libraries offer Internet access.

Legal Aid The **Legal Aid Society** is in Salt Lake City at 205 N. 400 West (✆ **801/328-8849;** www.lasslc.org), or contact **Utah Legal Services** (✆ **800/662-4245** or 801/328-8891; www.andjusticeforall.org/uls).

Liquor Laws The legal drinking age is 21. Utah's drinking laws are a bit complex, but you can buy alcoholic beverages almost everywhere in the state. You can buy 3.2% beer (read on if you're not sure what that means) and malt coolers in supermarkets and convenience stores 7 days a week; stronger beer, wine, and hard liquor are available only at state-owned liquor stores and package agencies, which are closed Sundays and state holidays.

Buying liquor, beer, or wine by the drink is a bit more complicated. Most of the better restaurants serve alcoholic beverages with meals. Wine and liquor can be served from noon and beer can be served from 10am. In most cases, you'll have to ask for a drink—they won't offer to serve you one. Some establishments are licensed as taverns and can sell 3.2% beer only, also beginning at 10am. There are also "private clubs," which actually aren't private at all: They're essentially bars, and may be attached to restaurants. You can either go in as a guest of a member or buy a 2-week membership, usually for $5 or so. Private clubs can serve beginning at 10am Monday through Saturday and at noon on Sunday. Alcoholic beverages cannot be sold by the drink after 1am Monday through Saturday or after midnight on Sunday.

Despite what some vendors might tell you, 3.2% beer, which is sold only in Utah, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Kansas, has less alcohol than the same brand beer sold elsewhere. According to Budweiser, 3.2% beer has about 4% alcohol by volume (which is equivalent to 3.2% alcohol by weight), whereas regular American beers have about 5% alcohol by volume.

Lost & Found Be sure to tell all of your credit card companies the minute you discover your wallet has been lost or stolen and file a report at the nearest police precinct. Your credit card company or insurer may require a police report number or record of the loss. Most credit card companies have an emergency toll-free number to call if your card is lost or stolen; they may be able to wire you a cash advance immediately or deliver an emergency credit card in a day or two. Visa's U.S. emergency number is ✆ **800/847-2911** or 410/581-9994. American Express cardholders and traveler's check holders should call ✆ **800/221-7282.** MasterCard holders should call ✆ **800/307-7309** or 636/722-7111. For other credit cards, call the toll-free number directory at ✆ **800/555-1212.**

If you need emergency cash over the weekend when all banks and American Express offices are closed, you can have money wired to you via **Western Union** (✆ **800/325-6000;** www.westernunion.com).

Identity theft or fraud are potential complications of losing your wallet, especially if you've lost your driver's license along with your cash and credit cards. Notify the major credit-reporting bureaus immediately; placing a fraud alert on your records may protect you against liability for criminal activity. The three major U.S. bureaus are **Equifax** (✆ **800/766-0008;** www.equifax.com), **Experian** (✆ **888/397-3742;** www.experian.com), and **TransUnion** (✆ **800/680-7289;** www.transunion.com). Finally, if you've lost all forms of photo ID call your airline and explain the situation; they might allow you to board the plane if you have a copy of your passport or birth certificate and a copy of the police report you've filed.

Newspapers The state's two largest dailies, both published in Salt Lake City, are the *Salt Lake City Tribune* (www.sltrib.com) and the *Deseret Morning News* (www.desnews.com). Several other communities have daily newspapers, and many smaller towns publish weeklies. About a dozen Utah newspapers can be found online, with links from the Internet Public Library site, www.ipl.org.

Police Dial ✆ **911.**

Safety See "Health & Safety," earlier in this chapter.

Smoking The Utah Indoor Clean Air Act prohibits smoking in any public building or office and in all enclosed places of public access. This includes restaurants but not private clubs, lounges, or taverns.

Taxes A combination of state and local sales taxes, from 6% to 8.5%, is added to your bill in all areas of Utah except Indian reservations. Local lodging taxes usually add an additional 3% to 6%.

Time Zone Utah is on Mountain Time, 1 hour ahead of the West Coast and 2 hours behind the East Coast. The state recognizes daylight saving time.

Useful Phone Numbers & Websites The poison control hot line is ✆ **800/222-1222.** For road conditions in Salt Lake City, call ✆ **801/964-6000;** for the rest of the state, call ✆ **800/492-2400.** Or see www.dot.state.ut.us/public/road_conditions.htm. For weather information, contact the **National Weather Service** (✆ **801/524-5133;** www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc).

3

For International Visitors

Whether it's your first visit or your tenth, a trip to the United States may require an additional degree of planning. This chapter will provide you with essential information, helpful tips, and advice for the more common problems that some visitors encounter.

1 Preparing for Your Trip

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Check at any U.S. embassy or consulate for current information and requirements. You can also obtain a visa application and other information online at the **U.S. State Department**'s website, at **www.travel.state.gov**.

VISAS The U.S. State Department has a **Visa Waiver Program** allowing citizens of certain countries to enter the United States without a visa for stays of up to 90 days. At press time these included Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Citizens of these countries need only a valid passport and a round-trip air or cruise ticket in their possession upon arrival. If they first enter the United States, they may also visit Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, and/or the Caribbean islands and return to the United States without a visa. Further information is available from any U.S. embassy or consulate. Canadian citizens may enter the United States without visas; they need only proof of residence.

Citizens of all other countries must have (1) a valid passport that expires at least 6 months later than the scheduled end of their visit to the United States, and (2) a tourist visa, which may be obtained without charge from any U.S. consulate.

To obtain a visa, the traveler must submit a completed application form (either in person or by mail) with a 2-inch-square photo, and must demonstrate binding ties to a residence abroad. Usually you can obtain a visa at once or within 24 hours, but due to updated security policies, visa waits may take longer—especially during the summer rush, from June through August. Male nonimmigrants between 16 and 45 years of age and students and exchange visitors must complete supplemental applications. Please contact your local consulate, or visit the "Visa Wait Times" section of the State Department website for further detail. If you are unable to apply for a visa in person, contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for directions on applying by mail. Your travel agent or airline office may also be able to provide you with visa applications and instructions. The U.S. consulate or embassy that issues your visa will determine whether you will be issued a multiple- or single-entry visa

and any restrictions regarding the length of your stay.

British subjects can obtain up-to-date visa information from the **Embassy of the United States London, UK,** 24 Grosvenor Square, London, W1A 1AE by calling the **U.S. Embassy Visa Information Line** (✆ **0891/200-290**) or by visiting the "Visa Services" section of www.usembassy.org.uk.

Irish citizens can obtain up-to-date visa information through the **Embassy of the USA Dublin,** 42 Elgin Rd., Dublin 4, Ireland (✆ **353/1-668-8777**), or by checking the "Visas to the U.S." section of the website at http://dublin.usembassy.gov.

Australian citizens can obtain up-to-date visa information by contacting the **U.S. Embassy Canberra,** Moonah Place, Yarralumla, ACT 2600 (✆ **02/6214-5600**), or by checking the "Visas to the U.S." section of the U.S. Diplomatic Mission's website at http://usembassy-australia.state.gov/consular.

Citizens of **New Zealand** can obtain up-to-date visa information by contacting the **U.S. Embassy New Zealand,** 29 Fitzherbert Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington (✆ **644/462-6000**), or get the information directly from the "For New Zealanders" section of the website at http://usembassy.org.nz.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS Unless you're arriving from an area known to be suffering from an epidemic (particularly cholera or yellow fever), inoculations or vaccinations are not required for entry into the United States. If you have a medical condition that requires **syringe-administered medications,** carry a valid signed prescription from your physician—the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) no longer allows airline passengers to pack syringes in their carry-on baggage without documented proof of medical need. If you have a disease that requires treatment with **narcotics,** you should also carry documented proof with you—smuggling narcotics aboard a plane is a serious offense that carries severe penalties in the U.S.

For **HIV-positive visitors,** requirements for entering the United States are somewhat vague and change frequently. According to the latest publication of *HIV and Immigrants: A Manual for AIDS Service Providers,* the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) doesn't require a medical exam for entry into the United States, but INS officials may stop individuals because they look sick or because they are carrying AIDS/HIV medicine.

If an HIV-positive noncitizen applies for a nonimmigrant visa, the question on the application regarding communicable diseases is tricky no matter which way it's answered. If the applicant checks "no," INS may deny the visa on the grounds that the applicant committed fraud. If the applicant checks "yes" or if INS suspects the person is HIV-positive, it will deny the visa unless the applicant asks for a special waiver for visitors. This waiver is for people visiting the United States for a short time, to attend a conference, for instance, to visit close relatives, to conduct business, or to receive medical treatment. It can be a confusing situation. For up-to-the-minute information, contact **AIDSinfo** (✆ **800/448-0440,** or 301/519-6616 outside the U.S.; www.aidsinfo.nih.gov) or the **Gay Men's Health Crisis** (✆ **212/367-1000;** www.gmhc.org).

DRIVER'S LICENSES Foreign driver's licenses are mostly recognized in the U.S., although you may want to get an international driver's license if your home license is not written in English.

PASSPORT INFORMATION

Safeguard your passport in an inconspicuous, inaccessible place like a money belt. Make a copy of the critical pages, including the passport number, and store it in a safe place, separate from the passport

itself. If you lose your passport, visit the nearest consulate of your native country as soon as possible for a replacement. Passport applications are downloadable from the websites listed below.

Note: The International Civil Aviation Organization has recommended a policy requiring that *every* individual who travels by air have a passport. In response, many countries are now requiring that children must be issued their own passport to travel internationally, where before those under 16 or so may have been allowed to travel on a parent or guardian's passport.

FOR RESIDENTS OF CANADA

You can pick up a passport application at one of 28 regional passport offices or most travel agencies. Canadian children who travel must have their own passport. However, if you hold a valid Canadian passport issued before December 11, 2001, that bears the name of your child, the passport remains valid for you and your child until it expires. Passports cost C$87 for those 16 years and older (valid 5 years), C$37 children 3 to 15 (valid 5 years), and C$22, children under 3 (valid 3 years). Applications, which must be accompanied by two identical passport-size photographs and proof of Canadian citizenship, are available at travel agencies throughout Canada or from the central **Passport Office,** Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G3 (✆ **800/567-6868;** www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/passport). Processing takes 5 to 10 days if you apply in person, or about 3 weeks by mail.

FOR RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

As a member of the European Union, you need only an identity card, not a passport, to travel to other E.U. countries. However, you do need a passport in order to visit countries outside the E.U. To pick up an application for a standard 10-year passport (5-year passport for children under 16), visit the nearest Passport Office, major post office, or travel agency. You can also contact the **United Kingdom Passport Service** at ✆ **0870/571-0410** or visit its website at www.passport.gov.uk. Passports are £42 for adults and £25 for children under 16, with another £30 fee if you apply in person at a Passport Office. Processing takes about 2 weeks (1 week if you apply at the Passport Office).

FOR RESIDENTS OF IRELAND

You can apply for a 10-year passport, costing €75, at the **Passport Office,** Setanta Centre, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 (✆ **01/671-1633;** www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie). Those under age 18 and over 65 must pay €25 for a 5-year or 10-year passport, respectively. Children under 3 pay €15 for a 3-year passport. You can also apply at 1A South Mall, Cork (✆ **021/272-525**), or over the counter at most main post offices.

FOR RESIDENTS OF AUSTRALIA

You can get an application from your local post office or any branch of Passports Australia, but you must schedule an interview at the passport office to present your application materials. Call the **Australian Passport Information Service** at ✆ **131-232,** or visit the government website at www.passports.gov.au. Passports for adults are A$150 and for those under 18 are A$75.

FOR RESIDENTS OF NEW ZEALAND

You can pick up a passport application at any New Zealand Passports Office or download it from their website. Contact the **Passports Office** at ✆ **0800/225-050** in New Zealand or 04/474-8100, or log on to www.passports.govt.nz. Passports for adults are NZ$71 and for children under 16 NZ$36. The

cost increases significantly if you reside outside New Zealand. Please refer to the website section "Requirements: Outside New Zealand."

CUSTOMS

WHAT YOU CAN BRING IN

Every visitor more than 21 years of age may bring in, free of duty, the following: (1) 1 liter of wine or hard liquor; (2) 200 cigarettes, 100 cigars (but not from Cuba), or 3 pounds of smoking tobacco; and (3) $100 worth of gifts. These exemptions are offered to travelers who spend at least 72 hours in the United States and who have not claimed them within the preceding 6 months. It is altogether forbidden to bring into the country foodstuffs (particularly fruit, cooked meats, and canned goods) and plants (vegetables, seeds, tropical plants, and the like). Foreign tourists may bring in or take out up to $10,000 in U.S. or foreign currency with no formalities; larger sums must be declared to U.S. Customs on entering or leaving, which includes filing form CM 4790. For more specific information regarding U.S. Customs and Border Protection, contact your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, or the **U.S. Customs** office (✆ **202/927-1770;** www.customs.ustreas.gov).

WHAT YOU CAN TAKE HOME

U.K. citizens returning from a non-E.U. country have a customs allowance of: 200 cigarettes; 50 cigars; 250 grams of smoking tobacco; 2 liters of still table wine; 1 liter of spirits or strong liqueurs (over 22% volume); 2 liters of fortified wine, sparkling wine, or other liqueurs; 60cc (ml) perfume; 250cc (ml) of *eau de toilette;* and £145 worth of all other goods, including gifts and souvenirs. People under 17 cannot have the tobacco or alcohol allowance. For more information, contact HM Customs & Excise at ✆ **0845/010-9000** (from outside the U.K., 020/8929-0152), or consult their website at www.hmce.gov.uk.

For a clear summary of **Canadian** rules, request the booklet *I Declare,* issued by the **Canada Customs and Revenue Agency** (✆ **800/461-9999** in Canada, or 204/983-3500; www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca). Canada allows its citizens a C$750 exemption, and you're allowed to bring back duty-free one carton of cigarettes, 1 can of tobacco, 40 imperial ounces of liquor, and 50 cigars. In addition, you're allowed to mail gifts to Canada valued at less than C$60 a day, provided they're unsolicited and don't contain alcohol or tobacco (write on the package "Unsolicited gift, under $60 value"). All valuables should be declared on the Y-38 form before departure from Canada, including serial numbers of valuables you already own, such as expensive foreign cameras. ***Note:*** The $750 exemption can only be used once a year and only after an absence of 7 days.

The duty-free allowance in **Australia** is A$900 or, for those under 18, A$450. Citizens age 18 and over can bring in 250 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, and 2.25 liters of alcohol. If you're returning with valuables you already own, such as foreign-made cameras, you should file form B263. A helpful brochure available from Australian consulates or Customs offices is *Know Before You Go.* For more information, call the **Australian Customs Service** at ✆ **1300/363-263,** or log on to www.customs.gov.au.

The duty-free allowance for **New Zealand** is NZ$700. Citizens over 17 can bring in 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, or 250 grams of tobacco (or a mixture of all three if their combined weight doesn't exceed 250g); plus 4.5 liters of wine and beer, or 1.125 liters of liquor. New Zealand currency does not carry import or export restrictions. Fill out a certificate of export, listing the valuables you are taking out of the country; that way, you can

bring them back without paying duty. Most questions are answered in a free pamphlet available at New Zealand consulates and Customs offices: *New Zealand Customs Guide for Travellers, Notice no. 4.* For more information, contact **New Zealand Customs,** The Customhouse, 17–21 Whitmore St., Box 2218, Wellington (✆ **0800/428-786** or 04/473-6099; www.customs.govt.nz).

HEALTH INSURANCE

Although it's not required of travelers, health insurance is highly recommended. Unlike many European countries, the United States does not usually offer free or low-cost medical care to its citizens or visitors. Doctors and hospitals are expensive, and in most cases will require advance payment or proof of coverage before they render their services. Policies can cover everything from the loss or theft of your baggage and trip cancellation to the guarantee of bail in case you're arrested. Good policies will also cover the costs of an accident, repatriation, or death. See "Health & Safety" and "Travel Insurance" in chapter 2 for more information. Packages such as **Europ Assistance's "Worldwide Healthcare Plan"** are sold by European automobile clubs and travel agencies at attractive rates. **Worldwide Assistance Services, Inc.** (✆ **800/777-8710;** www.worldwideassistance.com) is the agent for Europ Assistance in the United States.

Though lack of health insurance may prevent you from being admitted to a hospital in nonemergencies, don't worry about being left on a street corner to die: The American way is to fix you now and bill the living daylights out of you later.

INSURANCE FOR BRITISH TRAVELERS Most big travel agents offer their own insurance and will probably try to sell you their package when you book a holiday. Think before you sign. **Britain's Consumers' Association** recommends that you insist on seeing the policy and reading the fine print before buying travel insurance. **The Association of British Insurers** (✆ **020/7600-3333;** www.abi.org.uk) gives advice by phone and publishes *Holiday Insurance,* a free guide to policy provisions and prices. You might also shop around for better deals: Try **Columbus Direct** (✆ **084/5330-8518;** www.columbusdirect.net).

INSURANCE FOR CANADIAN TRAVELERS Canadians should check with their provincial health plan offices or call **Health Canada** (✆ **866/225-0709** or 613/957-2991; www.hc-sc.gc.ca) to find out the extent of their coverage and what documentation and receipts they must take home in case they are treated in the United States.

MONEY

CURRENCY The U.S. monetary system is very simple: The most common **bills** are the $1 (colloquially, a "buck"), $5, $10, and $20 denominations. There are also $2 bills (seldom encountered), $50 bills, and $100 bills (the last two are usually not welcome as payment for small purchases). All the paper money was recently redesigned, making the famous faces adorning them disproportionately large. The old-style bills are still legal tender.

There are seven denominations of coins: 1¢ (1 cent, or a penny); 5¢ (5 cents, or a nickel); 10¢ (10 cents, or a dime); 25¢ (25 cents, or a quarter); 50¢ (50 cents, or a half dollar); the new gold-colored "Sacagawea" coin worth $1; and, prized by collectors, the rare, older silver dollar.

Note: The "foreign-exchange bureaus" so common in Europe are rare even at airports in the United States, and nonexistent outside major cities. It's best not to change foreign money (or traveler's checks denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars) at a small-town bank, or even a branch in a big city; in fact, leave any currency other than U.S. dollars

at home—it may prove a greater nuisance to you than it's worth.

TRAVELER'S CHECKS Though traveler's checks are widely accepted, make sure that they're denominated in U.S. dollars, as foreign-currency checks are often difficult to exchange. The three traveler's checks that are most widely recognized—and least likely to be denied—are **Visa, American Express,** and **Thomas Cook.** Be sure to record the numbers of the checks, and keep that information in a separate place in case they get lost or stolen. Most businesses are pretty good about taking traveler's checks, but you're better off cashing them in at a bank (in small amounts, of course) and paying in cash. ***Remember:*** You'll need identification, such as a driver's license or passport, to change a traveler's check.

CREDIT CARDS & ATMS Credit cards are the most widely used form of payment in the United States: **Visa** (Barclaycard in Britain), **MasterCard** (EuroCard in Europe, Access in Britain, Chargex in Canada), **American Express, Diners Club, Discover,** and **Carte Blanche.** There are, however, a handful of stores and restaurants that do not take credit cards, so be sure to ask in advance. Most businesses display a sticker near their entrance to let you know which cards they accept. (***Note:*** Businesses may require a minimum purchase, usually around $10, to use a credit card.)

Visa and MasterCard are the most widely accepted in Utah, with American Express and Discover next.

It is strongly recommended that you bring at least one major credit card. You must have a credit card to rent a car. Hotels and airlines usually require a credit card imprint as a deposit against expenses, and in an emergency a credit card can be priceless.

You'll find **automated teller machines (ATMs)** on just about every block—at least in almost every town—across the country. Some ATMs will allow you to draw U.S. currency against your bank and credit cards. Check with your bank before leaving home, and remember that you will need your personal identification number (PIN) to do so. Most accept Visa, MasterCard, and American Express, as well as ATM cards from other U.S. banks. Expect to be charged up to $3 per transaction, however, if you're not using your own bank's ATM.

One way around these fees is to ask for "cash back" at grocery stores or pharmacies that accept ATM cards (or "debit cards") and don't charge usage fees. Of course, you'll have to purchase something first.

ATM cards with major credit card backing, known as "check cards" are now accepted in most businesses, stores, and restaurants. Check cards are processed as a credit card transaction, but still draw the funds directly from your checking account. Some stores enable you to receive "cash back" on your check-card purchases as well.

SAFETY

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS Although tourist areas are generally safe, U.S. urban areas tend to be less safe than those in Europe or Japan. You should always stay alert. This is particularly true of large American cities. Utah is generally a very

Travel Tip

Be sure to keep a copy of all your travel papers separate from your wallet or purse, and leave copies with someone at home should you need them faxed in an emergency.

Size Conversion Chart

Women's Clothing							
American	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
French	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
British	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
Women's Shoes							
American	5	6	7	8	9	10	
French	36	37	38	39	40	41	
British	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Men's Suits							
American	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
French	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58
British	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
Men's Shirts							
American	14½	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½
French	37	38	39	41	42	43	44
British	14½	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½
Men's Shoes							
American	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
French	39½	41	42	43	44½	46	47
British	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

safe state, but as Salt Lake City grows, problems will increase. If you're in doubt about which neighborhoods are safe, don't hesitate to make inquiries with the hotel front desk staff or the local tourist office.

Avoid deserted areas, especially at night, and don't go into public parks after dark unless there's a concert or similar occasion that will attract a crowd.

Avoid carrying valuables with you on the street, and keep expensive cameras or electronic equipment bagged up or covered when not in use. If you're using a map, try to consult it inconspicuously—or better yet, study it before you leave your room. Hold onto your handbag, and place your wallet in an inside pocket. In theaters, restaurants, and other public places, keep your possessions in sight.

Always lock your room door—don't assume that once you're inside the hotel you are automatically safe and no longer need to be aware of your surroundings. Hotels are open to the public, and in a large hotel, security may not be able to screen everyone who enters.

DRIVING SAFETY Driving safety is important too, and carjacking is not unprecedented. Question your rental agency about personal safety and ask for a traveler-safety brochure when you pick up your car. Obtain written directions—or a map with the route clearly marked—from the agency showing how to get to your destination. (Many agencies now offer the option of renting a cellphone for the duration of your car rental; check with the rental agent when you pick up the car. Otherwise, contact **InTouch USA** at ✆ **800/872-7626** or www.intouchusa.com for short-term cellphone rental.) And, if possible, arrive and depart during daylight hours.

If you drive off a highway and end up in a dodgy-looking neighborhood, leave the area as quickly as possible. If you have an accident, even on the highway, stay in your car with the doors locked until you assess the situation or until the police arrive. If you're bumped from behind on the street or are involved in a minor accident with no injuries, and the situation appears to be suspicious, motion to the other driver to follow you. Never get out of your car in such situations. Go directly to the nearest police precinct, well-lit service station, or 24-hour store.

Park in well-lit and well-traveled areas whenever possible. Always keep your car doors locked, whether the vehicle is attended or unattended. Never leave any packages or valuables in sight. If someone attempts to rob you or steal your car, it's safest not to resist. Report the incident to the police department immediately by calling ✆ **911.**

2 Getting to the U.S.

Utah's only major airport is **Salt Lake City International Airport** (✆ **800/595-2442** or 801/575-2400; www.slcairport.com), located just north of I-80 at exit 115, on the west side of the city. Airlines serving the airport include **American** (✆ 800/433-7300; www.aa.com), **America West** (✆ 800/235-9292; www.americawest.com), **Continental** (✆ 800/523-3273; www.continental.com), **Delta/SkyWest** (✆ 800/221-1212; www.delta.com), **Frontier** (✆ 800/432-1359; www.frontierairlines.com), **JetBlue** (✆ 800/538-2583; www.jetblue.com); **Northwest** (✆ 800/225-2525; www.nwa.com), **Southwest** (✆800/435-9792; www.southwest.com), and **United** (✆ 800/864-8331; www.united.com).

An alternative for visitors planning to go to southern Utah is to fly into **McCarran International Airport** in Las Vegas, Nevada (✆ **702/261-5211;** www.mccarran.com), which is only 120 miles southwest of St. George.

AIRLINE DISCOUNTS The smart traveler can find numerable ways to reduce the price of a plane ticket simply by taking time to shop around. For example, overseas visitors can take advantage of the APEX (Advance Purchase Excursion) reductions offered by all major U.S. and European carriers. For more money-saving airline advice, see "Getting There," in chapter 2.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE Visitors arriving by air, no matter what the port of entry, should cultivate patience and resignation before setting foot on U.S. soil. Getting through immigration control can take as long as 2

Tips Prepare to Be Fingerprinted

Since January 2004, many international visitors traveling on visas to the United States are being photographed and fingerprinted at Customs in a new Department of Homeland Security program called **US-VISIT.** Non–U.S. citizens arriving at airports and on cruise ships must undergo an instant background check as part of the government's ongoing efforts to deter terrorism by verifying the identity of incoming and outgoing visitors. Exempt from the extra scrutiny are visitors entering by land or those from 28 countries (mostly in Europe) that don't require a visa for short-term visits. For more information, go to the Homeland Security website at **www.dhs.gov/dhspublic**.

hours on some days, especially on summer weekends, so be sure to carry this guidebook or something else to read. This is especially true in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when security clearances were considerably beefed up at U.S. airports.

People traveling by air from Canada, Bermuda, and certain countries in the Caribbean can sometimes clear Customs and Immigration at the point of departure, which is much quicker.

3 Getting Around the U.S.

BY PLANE Some large airlines (for example, Northwest and Delta) offer travelers on their transatlantic or transpacific flights special discount tickets under the name **Visit USA,** allowing mostly one-way travel from one U.S. destination to another at very low prices. These discount tickets are not on sale in the United States and must be purchased abroad in conjunction with your international ticket. This system is the best, easiest, and fastest way to see the United States at low cost. You should obtain information well in advance from your travel agent or the office of the airline concerned, since the conditions attached to these discount tickets can be changed without advance notice.

BY TRAIN **Amtrak** (✆ **800/USA-RAIL;** www.amtrak.com) connects Salt Lake City to both the East and West coasts, and international visitors (excluding Canada) can buy a **USA Rail Pass,** good for 15 or 30 days of unlimited travel. The pass is available through many overseas travel agents. Prices valid for travel across the United States in 2005 for a 15-day pass were $295 off-peak, $440 peak; a 30-day pass costs $385 off-peak, $550 peak. Travel is significantly cheaper within specific regions; see the website for rail fares within the Northeast, East, and West. With a foreign passport, you can also buy passes at some Amtrak offices in the United States, including locations in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Miami, Boston, and Washington, D.C. Reservations are generally required and should be made for each part of your trip as early as possible. Regional rail passes are also available.

BY BUS Although bus travel is often the most economical form of public transit for short hops between U.S. cities, it can also be slow and uncomfortable—certainly not an option for everyone (particularly when Amtrak, which is far more luxurious, offers similar rates). **Greyhound/Trailways** (✆ **800/231-2222;** www.greyhound.com), the sole nationwide bus line, offers an **International Ameripass** that must be purchased before coming to the United States, or by phone through the Greyhound International Office at the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City (✆ **212/971-0492**). The pass can be obtained from foreign travel agents or through Greyhound's website (order at least 21 days before your departure to the U.S.) and costs less than the domestic version. 2005 passes cost as follows: 4 days ($179), 7 days ($239), 10 days ($289), 15 days ($349), 21 days ($419), 30 days ($479), 45 days ($529), or 60 days ($639). You can get more info on the pass at the website, or by calling ✆ **402/330-8552.** In addition, there are special rates for seniors and students.

BY CAR Unless you plan to spend the bulk of your vacation time in a city where walking is often the best and easiest way to get around (read: New York City), the most cost-effective, convenient, and comfortable way to travel around the United States is by car. The interstate highway system connects cities and towns all over

the country; in addition to these high-speed, limited-access roadways, there's an extensive network of federal, state, and local highways and roads. Some of the national car-rental companies include **Alamo** (✆ 800/462-5266; www.alamo.com), **Avis** (✆ 800/230-4898; www.avis.com), **Budget** (✆ 800/527-0700; www.budget.com), **Dollar** (✆ 800/800-3665; www.dollar.com), **Hertz** (✆ 800/654-3131; www.hertz.com), **National** (✆ 800/227-7368; www.nationalcar.com), and **Thrifty** (✆ 800/847-4389; www.thrifty.com).

If you plan to rent a car in the United States, you probably won't need the services of an additional automobile organization. If you're planning to buy or borrow a car, automobile-association membership is recommended. **AAA, the American Automobile Association** (✆ **800/222-4357;** www.aaa.com), is the country's largest auto club and supplies its members with maps, insurance, and, most important, emergency road service. The cost of joining runs from $63 for singles to $87 for two members, but if you're a member of a foreign auto club with reciprocal arrangements, you can enjoy free AAA service in America. See "Getting There" in chapter 2 for more information and "Fast Facts: For the International Traveler," below.

FAST FACTS: For the International Traveler

Automobile Organizations Auto clubs will supply maps, suggested routes, guidebooks, accident and bail-bond insurance, and emergency road service. The **American Automobile Association (AAA)** is the major auto club in the United States. If you belong to an auto club in your home country, inquire about AAA reciprocity before you leave. You may be able to join AAA even if you're not a member of a reciprocal club; to inquire, call AAA (✆ **800/222-4357**). AAA is actually an organization of regional auto clubs; so look under "AAA Automobile Club" in the White Pages of the telephone directory. AAA has a nationwide emergency road service telephone number (✆ 800/AAA-HELP).

Business Hours Banks are usually open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm, often until 6pm on Friday; some have hours on Saturday. Small stores are usually open Monday through Saturday, with some also open on Sunday afternoon. Most department stores, discount stores, and supermarkets are open daily and until 9pm. Some supermarkets are open 24 hours a day.

Currency & Currency Exchange See "Money" under "Preparing for Your Trip," earlier in this chapter.

Drinking Laws The legal age for purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages is 21; proof of age is required and often requested at bars, nightclubs, and restaurants, so it's a good idea to bring ID when you go out.

Do not carry open containers of alcohol in your car or any public area not zoned for alcohol consumption. The police can fine you on the spot. And nothing will ruin your trip faster than getting a citation for DUI ("driving under the influence"), so don't even think about driving while intoxicated. Utah's drinking laws are complex, so see "Liquor Laws" under "Fast Facts: Utah," in chapter 2.

Electricity Like Canada, the United States uses 110–120 volts AC (60 cycles), compared to 220–240 volts AC (50 cycles) in most of Europe, Australia, and New

Zealand. If your small appliances use 220–240 volts, you'll need a 110-volt transformer and a plug adapter with two flat parallel pins to operate them here. Downward converters that change 220–240 volts to 110–120 volts are difficult to find in the United States, so bring one with you.

Embassies & Consulates All embassies are located in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Some consulates are located in major U.S. cities, and most nations have a mission to the United Nations in New York City. Please visit the following countries' websites to see their complete lists of consulates. If your country isn't listed below, call for directory information in Washington, D.C. (✆ **202/555-1212**) or log on to www.embassy.org/embassies.

The embassy of **Australia** is at 1601 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036 (✆ **202/797-3000;** www.austemb.org). There are consulates in New York, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

The embassy of **Canada** is at 501 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 (✆ **202/682-1740;** www.canadianembassy.org). Other Canadian consulates are in Buffalo (N.Y.), Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, and Seattle.

The embassy of **Ireland** is at 2234 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (✆ **202/462-3939;** www.irelandemb.org). Irish consulates are in Boston, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco.

The embassy of **Japan** is at 2520 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (✆ **202/238-6700;** www.embjapan.org). Japanese consulates are located in many cities including Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The embassy of **New Zealand** is at 37 Observatory Circle NW, Washington, DC 20008 (✆ **202/328-4800;** www.nzemb.org). New Zealand consulates are in Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The embassy of the **United Kingdom** is at 3100 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (✆ **202/588-7800;** www.britainusa.com). Other British consulates are in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Emergencies Call ✆ **911** to report a fire, call the police, or get an ambulance anywhere in the United States. This is a toll-free call. (No coins are required at public telephones.)

If you encounter serious problems, contact the **Traveler's Aid International** (✆ **202/546-1127;** www.travelersaid.org) to help direct you to a local branch. This nationwide, nonprofit, social-service organization geared to helping travelers in difficult straits offers services that might include reuniting families separated while traveling, providing food and/or shelter to people stranded without cash, or even emotional counseling. If you're in trouble, seek them out.

Gasoline (Petrol) Petrol is known as gasoline (or simply "gas") in the United States, and petrol stations are known as both gas stations and service stations. Gasoline costs less here than it does in Europe (around $2.00 per gallon at press time), and taxes are already included in the printed price. One U.S. gallon equals 3.8 liters or .85 imperial gallons.

Holidays Banks, government offices, post offices, and many stores, restaurants, and museums are closed on the following legal national holidays: January 1 (New Year's Day), the third Monday in January (Martin Luther King, Jr., Day),

the third Monday in February (Presidents' Day, Washington's Birthday), the last Monday in May (Memorial Day), July 4 (Independence Day), the first Monday in September (Labor Day), the second Monday in October (Columbus Day), November 11 (Veterans Day/Armistice Day), the fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day), and December 25 (Christmas). Also, the Tuesday following the first Monday in November is Election Day and is a federal government holiday in presidential-election years (held every 4 years, and next in 2008).

Legal Aid If you are "pulled over" for a minor infraction (such as speeding), never attempt to pay the fine directly to a police officer; this could be construed as attempted bribery, a much more serious crime. Pay fines by mail, or directly into the hands of the clerk of the court. If accused of a more serious offense, say and do nothing before consulting a lawyer. Here the burden is on the state to prove a person's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and everyone has the right to remain silent, whether he or she is suspected of a crime or actually arrested. Once arrested, a person can make one telephone call to a party of his or her choice. Call your embassy or consulate.

Mail If you aren't sure what your address will be in the United States, mail can be sent to you, in your name, c/o General Delivery at the main post office of the city or region where you expect to be. (Call ✆ **800/275-8777** or go to www.usps.com on the Web for information on the nearest post office.) The addressee must pick up mail in person and must produce proof of identity (driver's license, passport, or the like). Most post offices will hold your mail for up to 1 month, and are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, and Saturday from 9am to 3pm.

Generally found at intersections, mailboxes are blue with a red-and-white stripe and carry the inscription U.S. MAIL. If your mail is addressed to a U.S. destination, don't forget to add the five-digit postal code (or zip code), after the two-letter abbreviation of the state to which the mail is addressed (UT for Utah). This is essential to prompt delivery.

At press time, domestic postage rates were 23¢ for a postcard and 37¢ for a letter. For international mail, a first-class letter of up to 1 ounce costs 80¢ (60¢ to Canada and Mexico); a first-class postcard costs 70¢ (50¢ to Canada and Mexico); and a preprinted postal aerogramme costs 70¢.

Measurements See the chart on the inside front cover of this book for details on converting metric measurements to U.S. equivalents.

Taxes The United States has no value-added tax (VAT) or other indirect tax at the national level. Every state, county, and city has the right to levy its own local tax on all purchases, including hotel and restaurant checks, airline tickets, and so on. A combination of state and local sales taxes, from 6% to 8.5%, is added to your bill in all areas of Utah except Indian reservations. Local lodging taxes usually add an additional 3% to 6%.

Telephone, Telegraph, Telex & Fax The telephone system in the United States is run by private corporations, so rates, especially for long-distance service and operator-assisted calls, can vary widely. Generally, hotel surcharges on long-distance and local calls are astronomical, so you're usually better off using a **public pay telephone,** which you'll find clearly marked in most public buildings and

private establishments as well as on the street. Convenience grocery stores and gas stations always have them. Many convenience groceries and packaging services sell **prepaid calling cards** in denominations up to $50; these can be the least expensive way to call home. Many public phones at airports now accept American Express, MasterCard, and Visa credit cards. **Local calls** made from public pay phones in most locales cost either 25¢ or 35¢. Pay phones do not accept pennies, and few will take a dollar coin.

You may want to look into leasing a cellphone for the duration of your trip (see "Using a Cellphone across the U.S." in "The 21st-Century Traveler," chapter 2).

Most long-distance and international calls can be dialed directly from any phone. **For calls within the United States and to Canada,** dial 1 followed by the area code and the seven-digit number. **For other international calls,** dial 011 followed by the country code, city code, and the telephone number of the person you are calling.

Calls to area codes **800, 888, 877,** and **866** are toll-free. However, calls to numbers in area codes **700** and **900** (chat lines, bulletin boards, "dating" services, and so on) can be very expensive—usually a charge of 95¢ to $3 or more per minute, and they sometimes have minimum charges that can run as high as $15 or more.

For **reversed-charge or collect calls,** and for person-to-person calls, dial 0 (zero, not the letter O) followed by the area code and number you want; an operator will then come on the line, and you should specify that you are calling collect, or person-to-person, or both. If your operator-assisted call is international, ask for the overseas operator.

For **local directory assistance** ("information"), dial 411; for long-distance information, dial 1, then the appropriate area code and 555-1212.

Telegraph and telex services are provided primarily by Western Union. You can bring your telegram into the nearest Western Union office (there are hundreds across the country) or dictate it over the phone (✆ **800/325-6000**). You can also telegraph money, or have it telegraphed to you, very quickly over the Western Union system, but this service can cost as much as 15% to 20% of the amount sent.

Most hotels have **fax services** available for guests (be sure to ask about the charge to send or receive). Many hotel rooms are even wired for guests' fax machines. A less expensive way to send and receive faxes may be at stores such as **The UPS Store** (formerly Mail Boxes Etc.), a national chain of retail packing service shops. (Look in the Yellow Pages under "Packing Services.")

There are two kinds of telephone directories in the United States. The so-called **White Pages** list private households and business subscribers in alphabetical order. The inside front cover lists emergency numbers for police, fire, ambulance, the Coast Guard, poison-control center, crime-victims hot line, and so on. The first few pages will tell you how to make long-distance and international calls, complete with country codes and area codes. Government numbers are usually printed on blue paper within the White Pages. Printed on yellow paper, the so-called **Yellow Pages** list all local services, businesses, industries, and houses of worship according to activity with an index at the front or back. (Drugstores/pharmacies and restaurants are also listed by geographic location.)

The Yellow Pages also include city plans or detailed area maps, postal zip codes, and public transportation routes.

Time The continental United States is divided into **four time zones:** Eastern Standard Time (EST), Central Standard Time (CST), Mountain Standard Time (MST), and Pacific Standard Time (PST). Alaska and Hawaii have their own zones. For example, noon in New York City (EST) is 11am in Chicago (CST), 10am in Salt Lake City (MST), 9am in Los Angeles (PST), 8am in Anchorage (AST), and 7am in Honolulu (HST).

Daylight saving time is in effect from 1am on the first Sunday in April through 1am on the last Sunday in October, except in Arizona, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Daylight saving time moves the clock 1 hour ahead of standard time.

Tipping Tips are a very important part of certain workers' income, and gratuities are the standard way of showing appreciation for services provided. (Tipping is certainly not compulsory if the service is poor.) In hotels, tip **bellhops** at least $1 per bag ($2–$3 if you have a lot of luggage) and tip the **chamber staff** $1 to $2 per day (more if you've left a disaster area for him or her to clean up). Tip the **doorman** or **concierge** only if he or she has provided you with some specific service (for example, calling a cab for you or obtaining difficult-to-get theater tickets). Tip the **valet-parking attendant** $1 every time you get your car.

In restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, tip **service staff** 15% to 20% of the check, tip **bartenders** 10% to 15%, tip **checkroom attendants** $1 per garment, and tip **valet-parking attendants** $1 per vehicle.

As for other service personnel, tip **cabdrivers** 15% of the fare; tip **skycaps** at airports at least $1 per bag ($2–$3 if you have a lot of luggage); and tip **hairdressers** and **barbers** 15% to 20%.

Toilets You won't find public toilets or "restrooms" on the streets in most U.S. cities, but they can be found in hotel lobbies, bars, restaurants, museums, department stores, railway and bus stations, and gas stations. Large hotels and fast-food restaurants are probably the best bet for good, clean facilities. If possible, avoid the toilets at parks and beaches, which tend to be dirty; some may be unsafe. Restaurants and bars in resorts or heavily visited areas may reserve their restrooms for patrons. Some establishments display a notice indicating this. You can ignore this sign or, better yet, avoid arguments by paying for a cup of coffee or a soft drink, which will qualify you as a patron.

4

The Active Vacation Planner

Utah is one big outdoor adventure, with millions of acres of public spaces where you can cast for trout or herd cattle, go rock climbing or four-wheeling, sail or ski. The state boasts five spectacular national parks, seven national monuments, two national recreation areas, one national historic site, seven national forests, some 22 million acres administered by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and 45 state parks. But who's counting? It's enough to say that almost 80% of Utah's 85,000 square miles is yours to enjoy.

If you're a seasoned active traveler, you might want to skip section 1; it should be a good primer, though, for those who are new to this kind of travel or who haven't been to Utah before. Section 2 provides some up-to-date information on visiting Utah's national parks. Following that are descriptions of activities you can pursue in Utah, from A to Z. We'll point you to the best places in the state to pursue your interests, and give you the information you'll need to get started. You'll find more details in the appropriate regional chapters. Have fun!

1 Preparing for Your Active Vacation

WHAT TO PACK & WHAT TO RENT

Planning for a trip into the great outdoors may conjure images of vacationers loaded down with golf clubs, skis, cameras, tents, canoes, and bikes. If a car or light truck is your mode of transportation, try to keep the heaviest items between the axles and as close to the floor of your vehicle as possible; this helps improve handling. If you have a bike rack on the rear bumper, make sure the bike tires are far from the exhaust pipe; one bike shop owner told us he does a good business replacing exhaust-cooked mountain-bike tires. Those with roof racks will want to measure the total height of their packed vehicles before leaving home. Underground parking garages often have less than 7 feet of clearance.

One alternative to carrying all that stuff is renting it. Many sporting-goods shops in Utah rent camping equipment; virtually all ski areas and popular mountain-bike areas offer rentals; and major boating centers such as Lake Powell and Lake Flaming Gorge rent boats and practically every water toy imaginable. You'll find many rental sources listed throughout this book.

In packing for your trip, you'll want to be prepared for all your favorite activities, of course, but you'll also want to be prepared for a land of extremes that often has an unforgiving climate and terrain. Those planning to hike or bike should take more drinking water than they think they'll need—experts recommend at least 1 gallon of water per person per day on the trail—as well as high-SPF sunblock, hats and other protective clothing, and sunglasses with ultraviolet protection. Summer visitors should

carry rain gear for the typical afternoon thunderstorms, plus jackets or sweaters for cool evenings. Winter visitors will need not only warm parkas and hats, but also lighter clothing—the bright sun at midday, even in the mountains, can make it feel like June.

STAYING SAFE & HEALTHY IN THE OUTDOORS

The wide-open spaces and rugged landscape that make Utah such a beautiful place to explore can also be hazardous to your health, especially if you're not accustomed to the extremes here; see "Health & Safety," in chapter 2, for details on dealing with desert climes and high altitudes. The isolation of many of the areas that you'll seek out means there may be no one around to help in an emergency, so you must be prepared, like any good Boy Scout. See "What to Pack & What to Rent," above, for tips on what to bring. Also, be sure to carry a basic first-aid kit that includes a pair of tweezers—very handy for removing tiny cactus spines from tender flesh. Most important of all, check with park offices, park rangers, and other local outdoor specialists about current conditions before heading out.

OUTDOOR ETIQUETTE

Many of the wonderful outdoor areas you'll explore in Utah are quite isolated; although you're probably not the first human being to set foot here, you may feel like you are. Not too long ago, the rule of thumb was to "leave only footprints"; these days, we're trying to not even do that. Being a good outdoor citizen is relatively easy—it's mostly common sense. Pack out all trash, stay on established trails, be careful not to pollute water, and, in general, do your best to have as little impact on the environment as possible. The best among us go even further, carrying a small trash bag to pick up what others have left behind.

2 Adventure Travel

There are plenty of opportunities for adventure in Utah—and some terrific outfitters to help you plan and execute your trip. You can take part in a cattle drive; thrill to the excitement of white-water rafting on the Green or Colorado rivers; scale a sheer rock wall in Zion National Park; or head out into some of the most spectacular scenery in the country on foot or on bicycle, or in a four-wheel-drive vehicle. The variety of tours available seems almost endless, but the tour operators can help you find the one for you. In many cases, you can work with an operator to plan your own customized trip—all it takes is money.

Below are some of the most respected national companies operating in Utah. Most specialize in small groups and have trips geared to various levels of ability and physical condition. They also offer trips in a range of price categories, from basic to luxurious, and of varying length. Numerous local outfitters, guides, and adventure travel companies are discussed throughout this book. For a complete list of outfitters in Utah, as well as a lot of other useful information and Web links, contact the **Utah Travel Council,** 300 N. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84114 (✆ **800/200-1160** or 801/538-1030; www.utah.com).

- **Austin-Lehman Adventures,** P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108-1025 (✆ **800/575-1540** or 406/655-4591; www.austinlehman.com), offers guided multi-day mountain biking, hiking, and combination tours in the Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks areas.

- **Backroads,** 801 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94710-1800 (✆ **800/462-2848** or 510/527-1555; www.backroads.com), offers a variety of guided multi-day road biking, mountain biking, and hiking tours in the areas surrounding southern Utah's national parks.
- **Bicycle Adventures,** P.O. Box 11219, Olympia, WA 98508 (✆ **800/443-6060** or 360/786-0989; www.bicycleadventures.com), offers guided multi-day hiking and biking excursions in the Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks areas.
- **Moguls Mountain Travel,** 6707 Winchester Circle, Suite 100, Boulder, CO 80301 (✆ **888/894-9725;** www.skimoguls.com), provides customized skiing and snowboarding packages at most of Utah's major resorts.
- **The World Outdoors,** 2840 Wilderness Place, Suite F, Boulder, CO 80301 (✆ **800/488-8483** or 303/413-0938; www.theworldoutdoors.org), offers a variety of trips, including multi-sport adventures that include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and rafting to the Canyonlands area, plus hiking/biking trips in the vicinities of Bryce Canyon, Zion, and the north rim of the Grand Canyon.

3 Visiting Utah's National Parks

For many people, including us, the best part of a Utah vacation is exploring the state's five national parks (www.nps.gov). Unfortunately, these beautiful national treasures have become so popular that they're being overrun by visitors at a time when the federal government is cutting budgets, making it difficult for the parks to cope with their own success.

To get the most out of your national park visit, try to go in the off season. The parks are busiest in summer, when most children are out of school, so try to visit at almost any other time. Fall is usually best. Spring is okay, but it can be windy and there may be snow at higher elevations. Winter can be delightful if you don't mind snow and cold. If you have to travel in summer, be patient. Allow extra time for traffic jams and lines, and try to hike some of the longer and lesser-used trails. Rangers will be able to tell you which trails are best for getting away from the crowds.

If you plan to visit a number of national parks and monuments within the time frame of a year, **National Parks Passes,** which cost $50 each, will save you money. The passes are good at all properties under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, but not at sites administered by the Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, or other federal or state agencies. The National Parks Passes provide free entrance for the pass-holder and all vehicle occupants to National Park Service properties that charge vehicle entrance fees, and the pass-holder, spouse, parents, and children for sites that charge per-person fees. The passes can be purchased at park entrance stations and visitor centers, by phone (✆ **888/GO-PARKS**), or online (www.nationalparks.org).

Also available at park service properties, as well as at other federal recreation sites that charge entrance fees, are **Golden Age Passports,** for those 62 and older, which have a one-time fee of $10 and provide free admission to all national parks and monuments, plus a 50% discount on other park fees such as camping. **Golden Access Passports,** free for blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens, have the same benefits and availability as the Golden Age Passports described above.

Golden Eagle Passes are available from U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife areas. At a cost of $65 for 1 year from the date of purchase, these passes allow the bearer, plus everyone traveling with him or her in

the same vehicle, free admission to all National Park Service properties plus other federal recreation sites that charge fees. The National Parks Passes discussed above can be upgraded to Golden Eagle status for $15.

4 Outdoor Activities A to Z

Utah offers a surprisingly wide range of outdoor activities, from desert hiking and four-wheeling to fishing and, of course, skiing. Among the many online outdoor recreation information sources are the very informative and user-friendly Public Lands Information Center website, **www.publiclands.org**, and the **GORP** (Great Outdoor Recreation Page) website, at **www.gorp.com**. Another excellent website is **www.outdoorutah.com**, where you can order a free copy of the annual *Outdoor Utah Vacation Guide,* and connect to their other websites (www.bicycleutah.com, www.backcountryutah.com, and whitewaterutah.com).

This is truly a do-it-yourself kind of state, and you'll have no trouble finding detailed topographic maps—essential for wilderness trips—plus whatever equipment and supplies you need. And despite the well-publicized cuts in budgets and work forces in national parks, recreation areas, and forests, every single ranger we encountered was happy to take time to help visitors plan their backcountry trips. In addition, many sporting-goods shops are staffed by area residents who know local activities and areas well, and are happy to help the would-be adventurer. In almost all cases, if you ask, there will be someone willing and able to help you make the most of your trip.

BOATING For a state that's largely desert, Utah certainly has a lot of lakes and reservoirs, from huge Lake Powell in the south to Lake Flaming Gorge in the north, with numerous reservoirs in between. We highly recommend both of the above-mentioned lakes, which are national recreation areas and have complete marinas with boat rentals. Don't forget the state parks, such as Jordanelle, which is near Park City, and Quail Creek—with the state's warmest water—near St. George. One of our favorites is picturesque but chilly Strawberry Reservoir, southeast of Park City in the Uinta National Forest. For information on boating in state parks, contact **Utah State Parks and Recreation** (p. 17).

CAMPING Utah is the perfect place to camp; in fact, at some destinations, such as Canyonlands National Park, it's practically mandatory. Just about every community of any size has at least one commercial campground, and campsites are available at all the national parks and national recreation areas, though these campsites are often crowded in summer. Those who can stand being without hot showers for a day or so can often find free or very reasonable campsites just outside the national parks, in national forests, and on Bureau of Land Management lands. Other good bets are found at Utah's state parks; among those with the best campgrounds are Kodachrome, just outside Bryce Canyon National Park; Coral Pink Sand Dunes, just west of Kanab; and Snow Canyon, near St. George.

A growing number of state and federal campgrounds, including campgrounds at Arches and Zion national parks, allow visitors to reserve sites, although often only in the busy summer months. Throughout Utah there are more than 100 national forest campgrounds and numerous state parks that will also reserve sites. To check on campground reservation possibilities for some National Park Service properties, contact the **National Park Reservation Service** (✆ **800/365-2267;** http://reservations.nps.gov) or use the link from the individual park's website. U.S. Forest Service, some National Park

Service, and other federal land reservations are available through the **National Recreation Reservation Service** (✆ **877/444-6777** or 518/885-3639; www.reserveusa.com); and reservations for state parks can be made with **Utah State Parks and Recreation** (✆ **801/538-7220;** www.stateparks.utah.gov).

CATTLE DRIVES Opportunities abound for you to play cowboy on cattle drives that last from a single day to a week or longer. You can actually take part in the riding and roping, just like Billy Crystal did in *City Slickers.* You'll certainly get a feel for what it was like to be on a cattle drive 100 years ago, though the conditions are generally much more comfortable than what real cowboys experienced. Each cattle drive is different, so you'll want to ask very specific questions about food, sleeping arrangements, and other conditions before plunking down your cash. It's also a good idea to book your trip as early as possible. A good company is **Rockin' R Ranch,** 10274 S. Eastdell Dr., Sandy, UT 84092 (✆ **801/733-9538;** www.rockinrranch.com).

FISHING Utah has more than 1,000 lakes, plus countless streams and rivers, with species that include rainbow, cutthroat, Mackinaw, and brown trout, plus striped bass, crappie, bluegill, walleye, and whitefish. Lake Flaming Gorge and Lake Powell are both great fishing lakes, but Strawberry Reservoir is Utah's premier trout fishery—in fact, it's one of the best in the West. Fly-fishing is especially popular in the Park City area and in the streams of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest above Ogden. Contact the **Utah Division of Wildlife Resources,** 1594 W. North Temple (P.O. Box 146301), Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301 (✆ **877/592-5169** or 801/538-4700; www.wildlife.utah.gov), for the weekly statewide fishing report.

Fishing licenses are available from state wildlife offices, sporting-goods stores, and the Division of Wildlife Resources website (www.wildlife.utah.gov). Keep in mind that several fishing locations, such as Lake Powell and Lake Flaming Gorge, cross state lines, and you'll need licenses from both states.

FOUR-WHEELING The Moab area, and Canyonlands National Park in particular, are probably the best-known four-wheeling destinations in Utah, but there are also plenty of old mining and logging roads throughout the national forests and on BLM land. Those with dune buggies like to head for Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, west of Kanab. For information on four-wheeling, contact **Utah State Parks and Recreation,** the **U.S. Forest Service,** and the **Bureau of Land Management** (p. 16).

GOLF Utah's golf courses are known for their beautiful scenery and variety of challenging terrain. They range from mountain courses set among the beautiful forests of the Wasatch to desert courses with scenic views of red-rock country. The warm climate of St. George, in Utah's southwest corner, makes this area a perfect location for year-round golf, and St. George has become the premier destination for visiting golfers—the area's Sunbrook Golf Course is probably Utah's best. In northern Utah, the course at the Homestead Resort near Park City is well worth the trip. A free directory of the state's 80-plus courses is available from the **Utah Travel Council** (p. 61); or check out the Utah Golf Association at www.uga.org.

HIKING Hiking is the best—and sometimes only—way to see many of Utah's most beautiful and exciting areas. Particularly recommended destinations include all five of Utah's national parks. You'll find splendid forest trails and wilderness at Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area and in the Wasatch Mountains around Ogden and Logan. Those looking for spectacular views won't do better than the trails on

BLM land around Moab. In Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, east of Bryce Canyon, numerous undeveloped, unmarked hiking routes explore some of the nation's most rugged country. State parks with especially good trails include Kodachrome, near Bryce Canyon National Park; Jordanelle, near Park City; Dead Horse Point, just outside the Island in the Sky District of Canyonlands National Park; and Escalante, in the town of Escalante.

Keep weather conditions in mind when hiking, such as the brutal summer heat around St. George and the likelihood of ice and snow on high mountain trails from fall through spring. Because of loose rock and gravel on trails in the southern part of the state, wear good hiking boots with aggressive soles and firm ankle support.

HORSEBACK RIDING It's fun to see the Old West the way the pioneers did—from the back of a horse. Although you won't find many dude ranches in Utah, you can find plenty of stables and outfitters who lead rides lasting from an hour to several days. We particularly recommend the rides at Bryce and Zion national parks—it's hard to beat the scenery—although you're likely to be surrounded by a lot of other riders and hikers. If you'd like a bit more solitude, head north to the mountains around Logan in the Wasatch Front or to Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

HOUSEBOATING Among the best ways to experience either Lake Powell or Flaming Gorge Lake is from the comfort of a houseboat. Marinas at each lake rent them, although you'll find the best selection at Lake Powell. Houseboats provide all the comforts of home—toilets, showers, sleeping quarters, and full kitchens—but in somewhat tighter quarters. Some of the larger ones have facilities for up to 12 people. You don't have to be an accomplished boater to drive one: Houseboats are easy to maneuver, and can't go very fast. No boating license is required, but you'll need to reserve your houseboat in advance, especially in summer, and send in a sizable deposit.

MOUNTAIN BIKING Although there are a few areas where road biking is popular (we heartily recommend using a road bike at Zion National Park), Utah really belongs to mountain bikers. With some of the grades you'll find, be sure you have plenty of gears. Moab claims to be Utah's mountain biking capital, but there's no dearth of opportunities in other parts of the state, either. Be aware that mountain bikes must remain on designated motor-vehicle roads in most national parks, but are welcome almost everywhere in areas administered by the U.S. Forest Service and BLM. In addition to the exciting and often challenging slickrock trails of Moab, you'll find excellent trail systems just outside of Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks. We also like the warm-weather biking at Brian Head Resort near St. George.

RIVER RAFTING, KAYAKING & CANOEING The Green and Colorado rivers are among the top destinations in the United States for both serious white-water as well as flat-water rafting; they're also popular with kayakers and canoeists. A favorite river trip, with plenty of white water, is down the Green River through Dinosaur National Monument. Trips on the Green also start in the town of Green River, north of Moab. The Colorado River sees more boaters than the Green, and has a greater range of conditions, from flat, glassy waters to rapids so rough they can't be run at all. Most Colorado River trips start in Moab. Several companies rent rafts, canoes, or kayaks, and give you some instruction. They'll also help you decide which stretches of river are suitable for your abilities and thrill-seeking level, and can arrange for a pickup at the takeout point. See chapter 15 for details on contacting these outfitters.

Life on the Open Road: Planning an RV or Tenting Vacation

One of the best ways to explore Utah, especially in the warm months, is in an RV—a motor home, truck camper, or camper trailer—or a tent, if you don't mind roughing it. If you own an RV, we advise you to have the mechanical systems checked out as there are some very steep grades in Utah. After that's done, pack up and go. If you don't have an RV or a tent, why not rent one for your Utah trip?

Why Camp? One advantage to this type of travel is that many of the places you'll want to go, such as Canyonlands National Park, don't offer any lodging. If you can't accommodate yourself, you'll end up sleeping 30 or 40 miles away and missing the spectacular sunrises and sunsets and that feeling of satisfaction that comes from living the experience rather than merely visiting it. If you have special dietary requirements, you won't have to worry about trying to find a restaurant that can meet your needs; you'll be able to cook for yourself, either in your motor home or trailer or on a camp stove.

There are disadvantages, of course. Tents, small trailers, and truck campers are cramped, and even the most luxurious motor homes and trailers provide somewhat close quarters. Facilities in most commercial campgrounds are less than what you'd get in moderately priced motels, and if you cook your own meals, you miss the opportunity to experience the local cuisine. But, all this aside, camping is just plain fun—especially in a setting as spectacular as this.

Renting an RV Camping to save money is possible if you limit your equipment to a tent, a pop-up tent trailer, or a small pickup-truck camper, but renting a motor home will probably end up costing as much as driving a compact

A worthwhile and lesser-known river trip is along the San Juan River in Bluff. This relaxing excursion will take you to relatively unknown archaeological sites and striking rock formations. See chapter 16.

A report on statewide river flows and reservoir information is available from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (✆ **801/539-1311** [recording]; www.cbrfc.noaa.gov).

ROCK CLIMBING This dizzying sport is growing so much in Utah that several popular areas have imposed moratoriums on bolting, and allow climbers to use existing bolt holes only. Among the more dramatic rock-climbing spots is Zion National Park, where climbing is as much a spectator sport as a participatory activity. You'll also find some inviting walls in Snow Canyon State Park near St. George, in Logan Canyon, and throughout the Wasatch Mountains in the Salt Lake City area.

SKIING & OTHER WINTER SPORTS Utahns like to brag that their state has "the greatest snow on earth"—and one winter trip just might convince you they're right. Utah's ski resorts are characterized by absolutely splendid powder, runs as scary or mellow as you'd like, and a next-door-neighbor friendliness many of us thought was extinct. With a few notable exceptions—particularly Park City, Deer Valley, and Snowbird—you won't find the poshness and amenities that dominate many of the ski

car, staying in moderately priced motels, and eating in family-style restaurants. That's because motor homes go only a third (or less) as far on a gallon of gas as compact cars, and they're expensive to rent—generally between $1,000 and $1,500 per week in mid-summer, when rates are highest.

If you're flying into the area and renting an RV upon arrival, choose your starting point carefully. Because most of Utah's national parks are closer to Las Vegas than Salt Lake City, you could save by starting and ending your trip in Vegas. The country's largest RV rental company, with outlets in Las Vegas and Salt Lake City, is **Cruise America** (✆ **800/784-7368;** www.cruiseamerica.com). RV rentals are also available from **El Monte RV** (✆ **888/337-2214;** www.elmonte.com). Information on additional rental agencies, as well as tips on renting, can be obtained online from the **Recreation Vehicle Rental Association** (www.rvra.org).

Choosing a Campground After you get a rig or a tent, you'll need a place to put it. Camping in national parks, federal lands, state parks, and more is discussed in the relevant sections of this book. For a brochure on the campgrounds in Utah's state parks, contact **Utah State Parks and Recreation** (p. 17). Members of the **American Automobile Association (AAA)** can request the club's free *Southwestern CampBook,* which includes campgrounds and RV parks in Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. Major bookstores carry several massive campground directories, including *The Unofficial Guide to the Best RV and Tent Campgrounds in the Southwest & South Central Plains* (Wiley Publishing, Inc.); *Trailer Life Campgrounds, RV Parks & Services* (www.rv.net); and *Woodall's Campground Directory* (www.woodalls.com).

resorts next door in Colorado, but you won't find the high prices, either. What you will discover are top-notch ski areas that are surprisingly easy to reach—half are within an hour's drive of Salt Lake City Airport. And they're relatively uncrowded, too: Utah generally receives about a third fewer skiers than Colorado, so you'll see fewer lift lines and plenty of wide-open spaces.

Cross-country skiers can break trail to their heart's content in Utah's national forests, or explore one of the developed cross-country areas. Particularly good are the mountains above Ogden and the old logging and mining roads southeast of Moab. Several downhill resorts, including Brian Head, Sundance, and Solitude, offer groomed cross-country trails, and some of the hiking trails at Bryce Canyon National Park are open to cross-country skiers in winter. Snowmobilers can generally use the same national forest roads as cross-country skiers, and both head to Cedar Breaks National Monument in winter, when those are the only ways to get into the park.

Growing in popularity is snowshoeing, which is not only easy but cheap. Among our favorite destinations is Bryce Canyon National Park.

Call ✆ **801/364-1581** for the daily avalanche and mountain weather report from the U.S. Forest Service (www.wrh.noaa.gov/saltlake), ✆ **800/492-2400** for statewide

road conditions, and ✆ **801/524-5133** for weather information. Contact **Ski Utah,** 150 W. 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101 (✆ **800/SKI-UTAH** or 801/534-1779; www.skiutah.com), for statewide ski resort information; and call ✆ **801/521-8102** for the daily ski report.

WILDLIFE VIEWING & BIRDING The great expanses of undeveloped land in Utah make it an ideal habitat for wildlife, and in most cases it isn't even necessary to hike very far into the backcountry to spot creatures. There's plenty for you to see—water birds at many lakes and reservoirs, elk and antelope in the Wasatch Mountains, lizards and snakes in the red-rock country of the south, and deer and small mammals practically everywhere. All of the national parks and many state parks have excellent wildlife-viewing possibilities: Coral Pink Sand Dunes near Kanab is known for its luminescent scorpions, and Escalante State Park boasts the best wetland bird habitat in southern Utah. Hikers on Boulder Mountain, near Escalante, are likely to see deer, elk, and wild turkey, and birders will enjoy the wide variety of songbirds found here.

The mountains above Ogden and Logan are especially good places to spot elk, deer, and even moose. The relatively remote Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area is one of the best areas in the state to find wildlife, so don't be surprised if a pronghorn (an antelope-like creature) joins you at your campsite. Birders have a good chance of seeing osprey, peregrine falcons, swifts, and swallows along the cliffs; and hikers on the Little Hole National Recreation Trail just below Flaming Gorge Dam should watch for a variety of birds, including bald eagles in winter. Antelope Island State Park in the Great Salt Lake is another good destination for bird-watchers.

5

Suggested Utah Itineraries

Utah has so many worthwhile sights and attractions that you'll want to keep coming back for more. Among the highlights of a trip to Utah are its splendid national parks and outdoor attractions; the temples, tabernacles, and historic sites of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and genuine Old West destinations, from mining towns and steam trains to saloons and shootouts.

Like most people, however, you probably have a limited amount of vacation time. In this chapter we recommend itineraries that let you enjoy the state's major attractions in the time you have allotted. We point out the most efficient routes to those must-see destinations—in effect, plotting out the best vacation for you, whether you have just 1 week of travel time or more.

The following itineraries are all driving tours; in fact, a motor vehicle—your own or a rental—is almost mandatory for anyone who wants to explore Utah. If you plan to visit Salt Lake City only or head to a major resort to ski for a week, you can get by without a car; but many, if not most, of the top destinations here require a bit of a drive.

Fortunately, Utah's well-maintained highways grant you access to most of the places on your itinerary, although not always directly. Utah's a vast state, with its sights and attractions spread out, so you'll end up doing some driving to get from one to another. One consolation is that traffic congestion is practically nonexistent, even in cities. Services along rural highways are often limited, though, so motorists need to keep an eye on fuel levels during long-distance hauls. That hand-painted roadside sign that says NO GAS NEXT 50 MILES may be more accurate than you think.

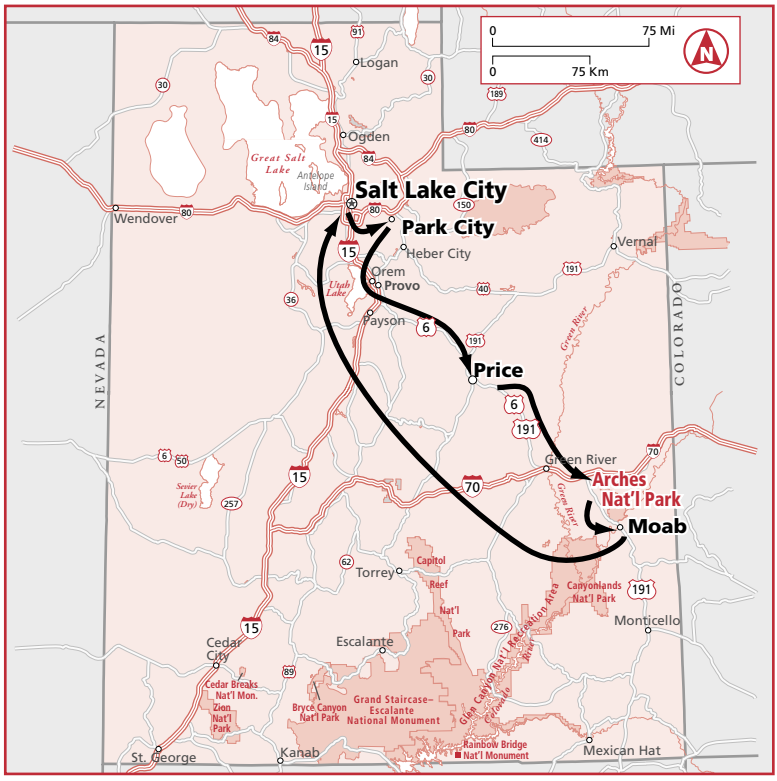
1 Utah in 1 Week

Nope, it can't be done. There's no way anyone can "see Utah" in only 7 days—there's simply too much here that's really worth exploring. We can, however, propose a fun, varied weeklong vacation in Utah that will give you a good taste of what the state is all about. This trip starts and ends in Salt Lake City, taking in historic sites, the Mormon culture, and some beautiful red-rock scenery.

Days 1–2: Salt Lake City

Among Salt Lake City's must-see attractions is **Temple Square,** the world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). In addition to the majestic church buildings, including the not-to-be-missed Tabernacle, the square houses lovely gardens and statuary, and visitor centers with exhibits on the church's history and beliefs. If possible, attend a performance of the renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Then, before leaving the city, drop in at the **Beehive House,** built in 1854 as church leader

Utah in 1 Week



Brigham Young's family home, and the **Museum of Church History and Art.** See p. 97.

Day 3: Park City ★★

Drive to the Old West mining town of Park City, where in winter you can test your skills at one of three fine ski resorts. In summer, stop at the **Utah Olympic Park,** built for the 2002 Olympics. It's open year-round for tours. Next, go downtown to the **Park City Museum of History & Territorial Jail** and pick up a copy of the *Park City Main Street Historic Walking Tour* brochure, which leads you to 45 buildings and historic sites that have managed to survive fires, hard times, and so-called progress through the decades. See p. 150.

Day 4: Price

There's a different sort of history in Price, which began as a railroad and coal-mining center but is now best known for its dinosaurs. Stop at the **CEU Prehistoric Museum,** operated by the College of Eastern Utah, to see huge skeletons of an allosaurus, a Utah raptor, and an intriguing duck-billed dinosaur known as the prosaurolophus. If time permits, drive about 35 miles out of town to the **Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry** to see excavations and the bones of more than 70 dinosaurs. See p. 308.

Days 5–6: Arches National Park ★ & Moab

One of Utah's easiest-to-see national parks, Arches (p. 292) is prized for its

mind-boggling sandstone rock formations, colored in shades of red, orange, and brown. Explore its scenic drive and several trails, and you'll delight in the other-worldly desertscape of natural stone arches, towers, and other fanciful sandstone formations. Make the adjacent town of Moab your headquarters, and take a break and cool off at the nearby **Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve** (p. 281), a lush oasis along the river that attracts more than 200 species of birds, plus river otters, beavers, and muskrats.

Day 7: Back to Salt Lake City

It's a long drive back to Salt Lake City, but, if time permits, plan a stop in Provo (p. 167) to explore some of its fine museums, especially the excellent Museum of Art on the campus of Brigham Young University.

2 Utah in 2 Weeks

Even 2 weeks is not enough time to see all that Utah has to offer, but we can say that in 14 days you'll be able to see a little bit of everything. This tour assumes you're flying in and out of Salt Lake City and renting a car. If, on the other hand, you don't need to return to the state capital, you'll have extra time to explore the national parks.

Days 1–2 Salt Lake City ★

Your first stop after arriving in Salt Lake City—after you've caught your breath—should be **Temple Square,** world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). In addition to the majestic church buildings, the square houses lovely gardens and statuary, and visitor centers with exhibits on the church's history and beliefs. If possible, attend a performance of the renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Before leaving the city, drop in at the **Beehive House,** built in 1854 as church leader Brigham Young's family home, and the **Museum of Church History and Art.** See p. 97.

Day 3: Park City ★★

Drive to the Old West mining town of Park City, where in winter you can hit the slopes at one of three fine ski resorts. In summer, stop at the **Utah Olympic Park,** built for the 2002 Olympics. It's open year-round for tours. Next, go downtown to the **Park City Museum of History & Territorial Jail** and pick up a copy of the *Park City Main Street Historic Walking Tour* brochure, which leads you to 45 buildings and historic sites that have managed to survive fires, hard times, and "progress" through the decades. See p. 150.

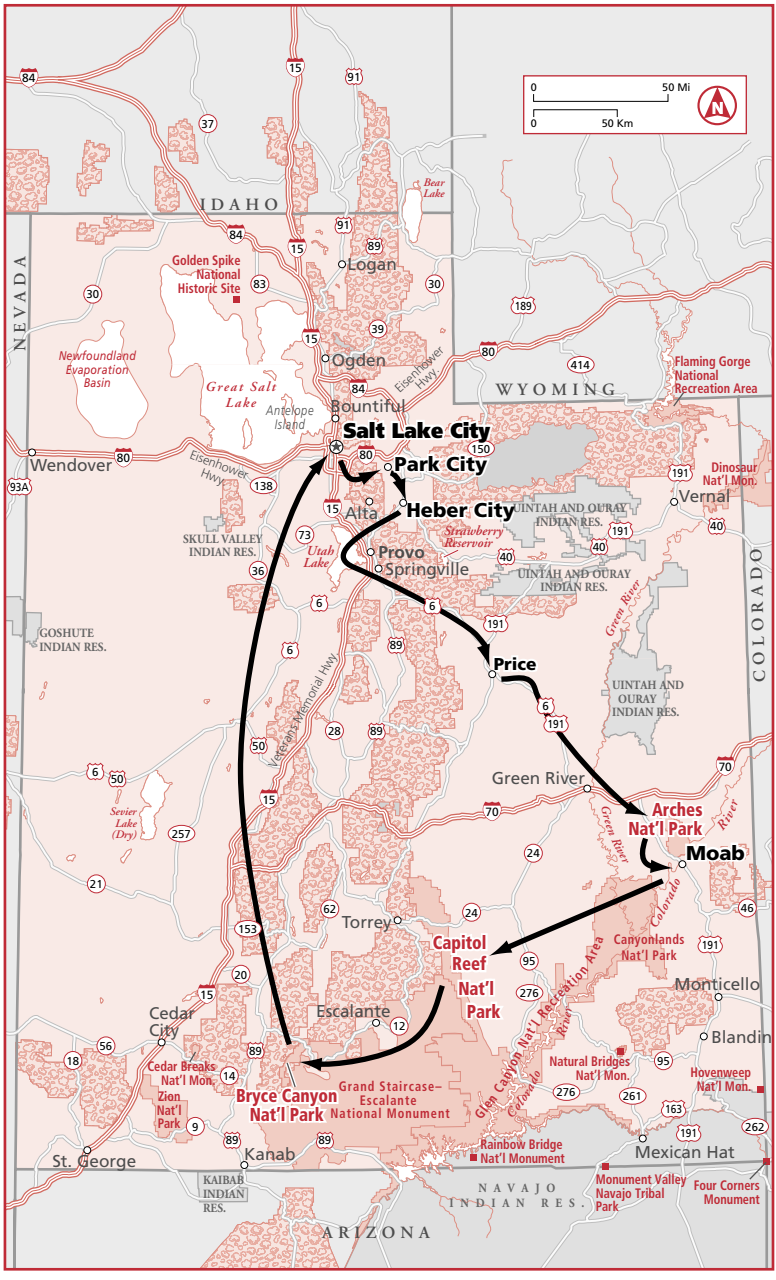
Day 4: Heber Valley Historic Railroad ★★

A short, pretty drive from Park City, the 100-year-old excursion train in Heber City is your ticket to Utah's past. Rides ranging from 1½ to 3 hours are offered on both steam and vintage diesel trains. See p. 158.

Day 5: Price

Discover a different sort of history in Price, which began as a railroad and coal-mining town but is now best known for its dinosaurs. The **CEU Prehistoric Museum,** operated by the College of Eastern Utah, showcases huge skeletons of an allosaurus, a Utah raptor, and an odd-looking duck-billed prosaurolophus. Then, if time permits, drive about 35 miles out of town to the **Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry,** where you'll see excavations and bones left by more than 70 dinosaurs. See p. 308.

Utah in 2 Weeks



Days 6–8: Arches National Park & Moab

Famous for its massive sandstone formations, this area boasts two national parks and the lively town of Moab. Canyonlands National Park is a wonderful adventure, but **Arches National Park** (p. 292) is far more accessible. The countless natural stone arches, towers, and walls look as if they were sculpted by an artist's hand. Stop at the visitor center, enjoy the scenic drive, and walk a few trails. If time remains, head to nearby **Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve** (p. 281), a lush river oasis that attracts more than 200 species of birds plus river otters, beavers, and muskrats.

Days 9–10: Capitol Reef National Park

This well-kept secret offers brilliantly colored and unexpectedly shaped rock formations, along with a variety of historic sites and even an orchard. The Fremont River feeds a lush oasis in this otherwise barren land; in fact, 19th-century pioneers found the soil so fertile that they established the town of **Fruita,** named for the orchards they planted. Today you can explore the buildings and even pick fruit in season. Hikers should look for the rock wall where pioneers "signed in," and explore canyons that were a favorite hide-out of famed outlaw Butch Cassidy. See p. 260.

Days 11–13: Bryce Canyon National Park

It's an amazingly scenic drive down Utah 12 to Bryce Canyon, our favorite national park, where you'll see thousands of intricately shaped hoodoos, those mysterious rock formations. Drive along the scenic route, stopping at the aptly named **Inspiration Point.** Then hit the colorful **Queen's Garden Trail,** named for a formation that resembles Britain's Queen Victoria, or take a leisurely stroll along the **Rim Trail** for some spectacular views. See p. 237.

Day 14: Back to Salt Lake City

It's a long drive back to Salt Lake City, but, if time permits, plan a stop in **Provo** (p. 167) to explore some fine museums, especially the excellent **Museum of Art** on the campus of Brigham Young University.

3 Utah for Families

Utah has the family-friendly thing down pat. Admission fees for children are especially low, and many tourist attractions offer family packages priced considerably lower than the per-person rate. Attractions frequently schedule family-centric events, and most destinations throughout this book have special activities for kids. This 12-day itinerary, which begins and ends in Salt Lake City, has plenty for children while also providing lots to interest the parents.

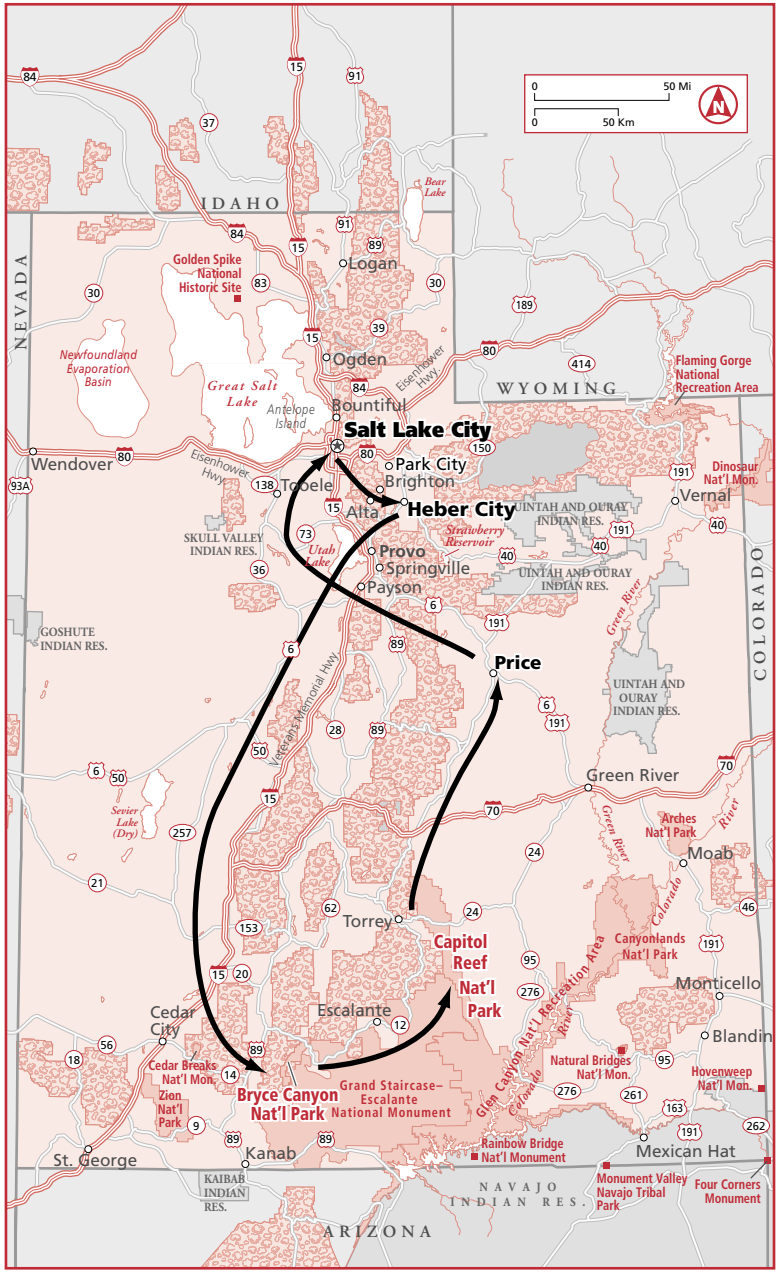
Days 1–3: Salt Lake City

Salt Lake City has so many family attractions that it would be easy to spend a week or more. History buffs will enjoy exploring **Temple Square,** and perhaps the **Beehive House,** built in 1854 as church leader Brigham Young's family home. Other fun family stops include **Clark Planetarium,** offering star shows, light shows, and big-screen movies; **Utah's Hogle Zoo,** home to 1,100 animals; and the **Children's Museum of Utah,** where kids can get their faces painted, pilot a jet, or excavate a woolly mammoth on an archaeological dig. See p. 102.

Day 4: Heber Valley Historic Railroad

This 100-year-old excursion train in Heber City provides an exciting look into

Utah for Families



the past, plus lots of black smoke, cinders, and wind in your hair. Rides ranging from 1½ to 3 hours are offered on both steam and vintage diesel trains. Most kids, including us over-aged ones, prefer the steam trains. See p. 158.

Days 5–7: Bryce Canyon National Park ★★★

This picturesque park is a long drive down I-15 and then along some back roads, but it's well worth the trip. Bryce contains thousands of intricately shaped hoodoos—those brooding rock formations that pique the imagination—colored in a palette of red, orange, and brown. Kids will especially like hiking the **Queen's Garden Trail,** where they can spot a variety of whimsical formations, such as Thor's Hammer. See p. 239.

Days 8–9: Capitol Reef National Park ★★★

Heading back north, take the incredibly scenic Utah 12 to Capitol Reef, a secret gem of a national park that offers brightly colored and oddly shaped rock formations, along with a handful of historic sites. Be sure to visit the 1896 **Fruita Schoolhouse,** authentically furnished with period wood-and-wrought-iron desks, wood-burning stove, chalkboard, and textbooks. Nearby, the **orchards** planted by the Mormon settlers continue to thrive, tended by park workers who invite you to sample the "fruits" of their labors. See p. 262.

Day 10: Price

If you're trying to sell children on a museum, make sure it has dinosaurs. Enter the **CEU Prehistoric Museum,** where huge skeletons of an allosaurus, a Utah raptor, and a duck-billed prosaurolophus preside. For the true dinophile, drive about 35 miles out of town to the **Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry,** where you'll find relics of more than 70 dinosaurs. See p. 308.

Days 11–12: Back to Salt Lake City

Return to Salt Lake City and catch up on attractions you missed the first time, such as **This Is the Place Heritage Park.** The park is home to **Old Deseret Village,** a pioneer village comprised of original and reproduction buildings that in summer becomes a mid-1800s living-history museum, complete with costumed villagers and a variety of activities, including wagon rides. Another good choice is **Liberty Park,** with trails, a small lake with ducks and paddle-boat rentals, a playground, a children's garden, a kiddie amusement park, a museum, and an excellent aviary. See p. 100.

4 Utah's National Parks

Southern Utah boasts five delightful national parks, plus a national recreation area and monument. In addition, the Navajo Nation is home to wondrous Monument Valley park, just along the Arizona state line. Visit these sites in a somewhat circuitous loop for what we believe is the best-ever national park tour in the American West. This trip begins and ends in St. George; air travelers will probably fly to Las Vegas, Nevada, and rent a car there. It can be done in 2 weeks, but is much more satisfying done in 3 weeks as described here. With extra time you can easily add the North Rim of the Grand Canyon (see *Frommer's Grand Canyon National Park,* Wiley Publishing, Inc.).

Day 1: St. George

Stock up on supplies in town before heading to the parks, but also make some time for the **St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm,** which showcases some 2,000 fossilized dinosaur tracks. Other noteworthy attractions include historic Mormon sites, such as

the **Jacob Hamblin Home,** built in 1862, which is typical of pioneer homes throughout the West except for its two identical bedrooms—one for each of Hamblin's wives; and the exquisite 1876 **St. George Tabernacle,** with pine finished to look like exotic hardwoods, as well as marble. See p. 199.

Days 2–4: Zion National Park ★★

Famous for its mammoth natural stone sculptures and unbelievably narrow slot canyon called The Narrows, this is a park that begs to be explored. Hop on the shuttle bus that runs the length of the **Zion Canyon Scenic Drive,** getting off to take trails. We especially recommend the easy **Riverside Walk,** which follows the Virgin River down a narrow canyon through hanging gardens. Especially pleasant on hot days, the **Emerald Pools Trail** traverses a forest of oak, maple, fir, and cottonwood trees, leading to a waterfall, hanging garden, and a shimmering pool. See p. 226.

Days 5–6: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area ★★★

This national recreation area is best known for **Lake Powell** and its 1,960 miles of shoreline. This is a boating destination, so you'll want to either **rent a boat** to go exploring, fishing, or swimming; or take a guided boat trip. Whichever you do, be sure to save time for **Rainbow Bridge National Monument** in the recreation area and easily accessible by boat. Believed to be the largest natural bridge in the world, this "rainbow turned to stone" is considered sacred by the Navajo. See p. 274.

Days 7–8: Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park

To many of us, Monument Valley *is* the Old West we've seen in movies and on TV. Part of the vast Navajo Nation, the park has a 17-mile self-guided **loop road** that let's you hit most of the major scenic attractions, or you can get a more personalized tour with a **Navajo guide.** Either way, you'll see classic Western scenery made famous in movies such as 1939's *Stagecoach,* which starred a young John Wayne. Be sure to see the movie exhibits at **Goulding's Trading Post Museum.** See p. 315.

Days 9–12: Canyonlands & Arches National Parks ★

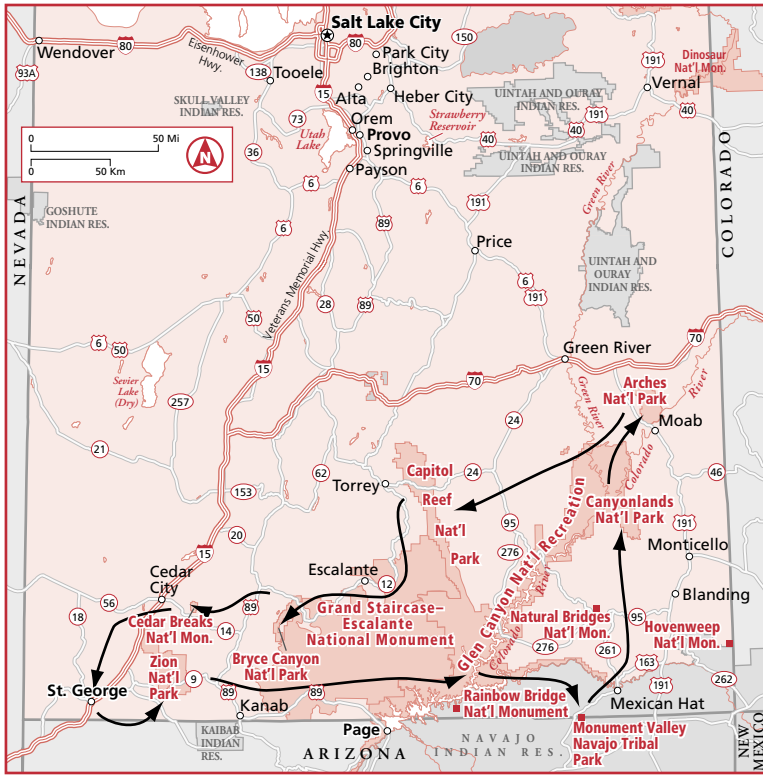
Beloved for its captivating red and orange rock formations, this area boasts two national parks that flank the lively town of Moab. **Canyonlands National Park** (p. 298) is a hikers' park. Stop at the **Grand View Point Overlook,** in the **Island in the Sky District,** and hike the **Grand View Trail,** which is especially scenic in late afternoon. **Arches National Park** (p. 292) is easier than Canyonlands to explore. Take the scenic drive and walk a few trails—on the **Devils Garden Trail** you can see 15 to 20 arches including picturesque **Landscape Arch.**

Days 13–14: Capitol Reef National Park ★★★

This well-kept secret offers brilliantly colored rock formations with a bit of history. The Fremont River created a lush oasis in this otherwise barren land where 19th-century pioneers settled the town of **Fruita,** named for the orchards they planted. Today you can explore the town and even pick fruit in season. Hikers can examine **Pioneer Register,** a rock wall where traveling pioneers "signed in," and explore canyons where famed outlaw Butch Cassidy is said to have hidden out between robberies. See p. 263

Days 15–18: Scenic Utah 12 & Bryce Canyon National Park ★★★

From Capitol Reef, go south on Utah 12 over Boulder Mountain and through **Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument** (p. 247); stop for a short hike to Calf Creek Falls before heading to



Bryce Canyon National Park. Spend the night in the park or nearby so you can be on the rim of Bryce Amphitheater at sunrise—the best time to see the colorful and whimsical rock formations known as hoodoos. Top trails here include the colorful **Queen's Garden Trail,** named for a formation that resembles Britain's Queen Victoria. See p. 237.

Days 19–20: Cedar Breaks National Monument ★

This small, high-altitude park—with an amphitheater reminiscent of Bryce Canyon's Queen's Garden—has a 5-mile road that offers access to Cedar Breaks' scenic overlooks and trail heads. Hike **Spectra Point Trail** along the rim for changing views of the colorful rock formations. The fields of wildflowers, especially colorful in late July and August, and the 1,500-year-old bristlecone pines are a real treat. See p. 206.

Day 21: Back to St. George

Back in St. George catch the historic Mormon sights you missed earlier or possibly take in a few rounds of **golf** at one of St. George's eight splendid greens. If you want to see just one more park, drop in at one of Utah's most scenic, **Snow Canyon State Park,** which offers an abundance of opportunities for photography and hiking. See p. 199.

6

Salt Lake City

Nestled between the Wasatch Mountains on the east and the Great Salt Lake on the west, at an elevation of 4,330 feet, lies Salt Lake City. Utah's capital and major population center is small as far as American cities go, with a population of just over 180,000. But travelers come from around the world to visit magnificent Temple Square, world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), and to hear the inspired voices of the unequaled Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Although Salt Lake City may be best known for its religious affiliations, and has an undeserved reputation as a stodgy, uptight town where you can't get a drink, the city is growing in popularity as a base for outdoor enthusiasts. Exhilarating recreational possibilities are only about an hour's drive from the city. With some of the country's best ski and snowboard resorts; miles of terrific mountain trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding; and the intriguing Great Salt Lake, Salt Lake City is beginning to shed its image as "that boring Mormon town with the choir."

Incidentally, one of the first things visitors notice upon arrival is how sensibly organized and pleasantly wide the streets are. Early church leader Brigham Young laid out the city streets in a grid pattern, with the Temple at the center, and decreed that the streets should be 132 feet wide so that a team of four oxen and a wagon could make a U-turn. A more tantalizing tale has it that the streets were made wide enough for polygamist Young and all his wives to walk comfortably down the street arm-in-arm, with no one forced into the gutter.

1 Orientation

ARRIVING

BY PLANE Direct flights connect Salt Lake City to almost 70 cities in the United States and Canada. **Salt Lake City International Airport** (✆ **800/595-2442** or 801/575-2400; www.slcairport.com) is located just north of I-80 at exit 115, on the west side of the city. Airlines serving the airport include American (✆ 800/433-7300; www.aa.com), America West (✆ 800/235-9292; www.americawest.com), Continental (✆ 800/523-3273; www.continental.com), Delta/SkyWest (✆ 800/221-1212; www.delta.com), Frontier (✆ 800/432-1359; www.frontierairlines.com), JetBlue (✆ 800/538-2583; www.jetblue.com); Northwest (✆ 800/225-2525; www.nwa.com), Southwest (✆ 800/435-9792; www.southwest.com), and United (✆ 800/864-8331; www.united.com).

BY CAR Salt Lake City is 303 miles north of St. George, 238 miles northwest of Moab, 45 miles north of Provo, and 35 miles south of Ogden. You can reach it from the east or west via I-80 and from the north or south via I-15.

BY TRAIN **Amtrak** has several trains arriving daily from both coasts. The station is at 340 S. 600 West (✆ **800/872-7245;** www.amtrak.com).

VISITOR INFORMATION

The **Salt Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau** has an information center downtown in the Salt Palace Convention Center, 90 S. West Temple (✆ **800/541-4955** or 801/521-2822; www.visitsaltlake.com). It's open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5pm (until 6pm from Memorial Day to Labor Day), Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 5pm, and sells the Connect Pass ($31 adults, $22 children), which covers admission at a dozen local attractions. Additional information centers, staffed 9am to 9pm daily, can be found in the baggage areas in Salt Lake City International Airport Terminals I and II. There is another information center just off I-80 at 7200 West, open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:30am to 5pm.

CITY LAYOUT

Salt Lake City is laid out in a simple grid system centered on Temple Square. The roads bounding the Square are North Temple, South Temple, West Temple, and Main Street, with the center of town at the southeast corner (the intersection of Main and South Temple), which is the site of the Brigham Young Monument. The numbers in the road names increase from here by 100s in the four cardinal directions, with West Temple taking the place of 100 West, 100 North called North Temple, and 100 East known as State Street.

Addresses may seem confusing at first, but are really quite clear once you get accustomed to them. For instance, 1292 S. 400 West lies almost 13 blocks south of Temple Square and 4 blocks west, and 243 N. 600 East is about 2 blocks north and 6 blocks east.

A variety of detailed city maps can be purchased at most bookstores. The *Salt Lake Visitor's Guide,* available free at the visitor center, includes maps showing the approximate location of many restaurants, motels, and attractions.

NEIGHBORHOODS IN BRIEF

Downtown The downtown area, centered on Temple Square, is both a business district and the administrative center for the LDS Church. Church offices, the Family History Library, the Museum of Church History and Art, and other church buildings surround the Square. This is most likely where you'll spend the bulk of your time. Within a few blocks south, west, and east are hotels, restaurants, stores, and two major shopping centers. Within a couple of blocks are the Salt Palace Convention Center, the Maurice Abravanel Concert Hall, and the Capitol Theatre.

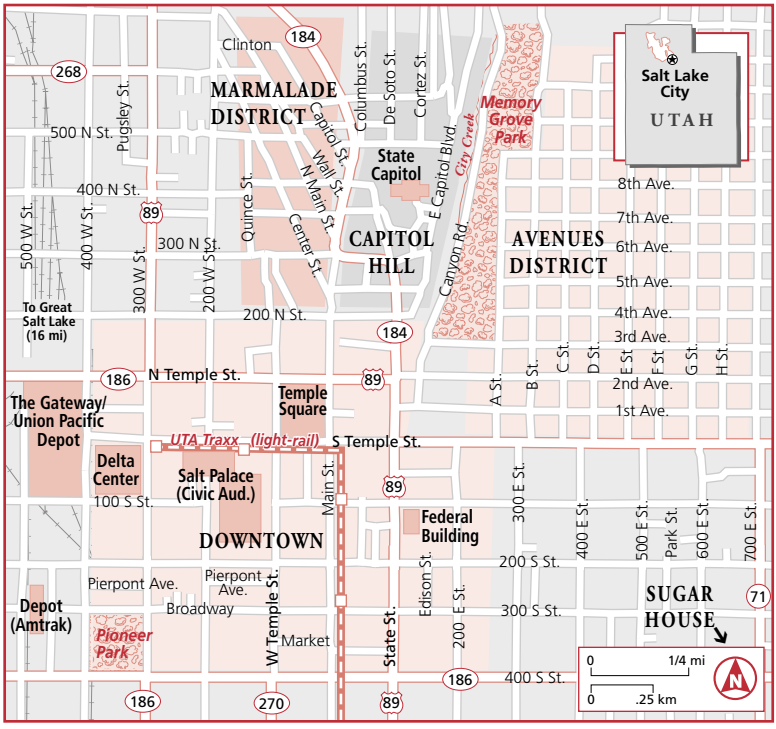
Capitol Hill The Capitol Hill district lies north of the Square and encompasses the 40 acres around the Utah State Capitol Building and Council Hall. Some lovely old homes are located in the blocks surrounding the Capitol.

Marmalade District The blocks west of the Capitol to Quince Street are known as the Marmalade District. The streets in this small area were named for the nut and fruit trees brought in by early settlers, and the houses represent a variety of the city's early architectural styles.

Sugar House Southeast of downtown, Sugar House was named for a never-completed sugar mill and is one of the valley's longest-standing neighborhoods. Today, it's populated by the young and hip and features a quirky collection of stores, galleries, and Asian eateries.

Avenues District The Avenues District lies east of the Capitol and north of South

Salt Lake City Neighborhoods



Temple. Most of the larger homes here date from the silver boom in Little Cottonwood Canyon, when they were built by successful miners and merchants. Today, the tenants are mostly college students and young professionals.

2 Getting Around

BY CAR This is an easy city to explore by car, in large part because of the wide streets and abundant parking. National car-rental companies here include **Advantage** (✆ **800/777-5500** or 801/531-1199), **Alamo** (✆ **800/327-9633** or 801/575-2211), **Avis** (✆ **800/331-1212** or 801/575-2847), **Budget** (✆ **800/527-0700** or 801/575-2500), **Dollar** (✆ **800/800-4000** or 801/575-2580), **Enterprise** (✆ **800/325-8007** or 801/537-7433), **Hertz** (✆ **800/654-3131** or 801/575-2683), and **National** (✆ **800/227-7368** or 801/575-2277). All of these companies either have offices at the airport or will deliver a car to the airport for you.

You'll find many public parking lots in the downtown area, costing from $1 to $7 per day. Some lots are free with validation from participating merchants or restaurants. Street parking downtown is metered, costing 25¢ per half-hour, and usually limited to 130 minutes or 2 hours. Parking for larger RVs and motor homes is limited; there's one large lot—the entire block between North and South Temple and 200 and 300 West—where you can park for $2 to $6 per hour. You might also try the lot behind

the Capitol, where there are some designated large-vehicle spaces; East Capitol Street, which is not metered, is a possibility as well.

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION The **Utah Transit Authority** (✆ **888/743-3882** or 801/743-3882; www.utabus.com or www.rideuta.com) provides **bus service** throughout the city, with a free-fare zone in the downtown area, roughly from 400 South to North Temple, continuing up Main Street to 500 North to include the State Capitol, and between 200 East and West Temple. You can ride free within this zone, getting on and off as many times as you'd like. The fee for traveling in the other zones is $1.25 to $1.40 per person; 60¢ to 70¢ for seniors and those with disabilities; or $3.50 for a day pass. Some buses are wheelchair accessible, and all have bicycle carriers. **Traxx,** a light-rail system also operated by the Utah Transit Authority, with the same contact information and same rates as the Utah Transit Authority's bus service (albeit free in the downtown area), runs 15 miles from the Sandy Civic Center in the Salt Lake City suburb of Sandy north to Delta Center in downtown Salt Lake City, with another line running east to the University of Utah. The trains are wheelchair accessible and bicycles are permitted. Route schedules and maps for both the buses and light rail are available at malls, libraries, and visitor centers.

BY TAXI For a taxi, contact the **City Cab** (✆ **801/363-5550**), **Yellow Cab** (✆ **801/521-2100**), or **Ute Cab** (✆ **801/359-7788**), all available 24 hours a day.

FAST FACTS: Salt Lake City

American Express The American Express office is located north of Salt Lake City in Bountiful at 150 N. Main St. (✆ **801/292-8687**). It's open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Business Hours Banks are usually open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm, often until 6pm on Friday; some have hours on Saturday. Small stores are usually open Monday through Saturday, with some also open on Sunday afternoon. Most department stores, discount stores, and supermarkets are open daily and until 9pm. Some supermarkets are open 24 hours a day.

Doctors For physician referrals, contact the **Utah Medical Association** (✆ **801/355-7477**). In an emergency, dial ✆ **911.**

Emergencies Dial ✆ **911** for police, fire, or ambulance.

Hospitals **LDS Hospital,** 8th Avenue and C Street (✆ **801/408-1100**), and **Salt Lake Regional Medical Center,** 1050 E. South Temple (✆ **801/350-4111**), both have 24-hour emergency rooms.

Newspapers & Magazines The two major daily newspapers are the *Salt Lake Tribune* (www.sltrib.com) and the *Deseret Morning News* (www.deseretnews.com). The *Salt Lake City Magazine* is a slick publication with a section on current events. The *Salt Lake City Weekly* (www.slweekly.com) is the local alternative paper.

Police For emergencies, call ✆ **911.** The nonemergency police phone number is ✆ **801/799-3000.**

Post Office The main post office is at 1760 W. 2100 South; the branch closest to downtown is at 230 W. 200 South (✆ **800/275-8777;** www.usps.com for hours and locations of other post offices).

Road & Traffic Conditions For statewide road and traffic conditions, call ✆ **800/492-2400** or 511.

Taxes Sales tax in Salt Lake City is 6.6%; restaurant tax totals 7.6%; lodging taxes total 11.2% within the city limits, 10.1% to 11.1% in Salt Lake County outside the municipal boundaries.

Weather Call ✆ **801/575-7669** for weather reports.

3 Where to Stay

You'll have no trouble finding comfortable, conveniently located accommodations in Salt Lake City, usually at relatively reasonable rates. In fact, a building boom of new rooms for the 2002 Olympics resulted in a surplus of lodging, so if you check around, you're likely to find rates that are significantly lower than the rates listed here.

Among the more affordable major chains and franchises (usually charging under $75–$80 for two persons), we recommend the **Days Inn,** 315 W. 3300 South (✆ **800/329-7466** or 801/486-8780); **Econo Lodge,** 715 W. North Temple (✆ **877/233-2666** or 801/363-0062); **Super 8,** 616 S. 200 West (✆ **800/800-8000** or 801/534-0808); and **Travelodge,** 144 W. North Temple (✆ **800/578-7878** or 801/533-8200).

Slightly more expensive are the **Comfort Suites Airport,** 172 N. 2100 West (✆ **800/424-6423** or 801/715-8688); **Hampton Inn Downtown,** 425 S. 300 West (✆ **800/426-7866** or 801/741-1110); and **Radisson Hotel Salt Lake City Airport,** 2177 W. North Temple (✆ **800/333-3333** or 801/364-5800).

Prices listed here are the rack rates, which virtually no one actually pays; the actual price that you will pay will most likely be significantly lower. Make a point of asking for discounts, which are often given to seniors, members of the military, business travelers, and members of travel clubs such as AAA. **Salt Lake Reservations** (✆ **800/847-5810;** www.visitsaltlake.com/reservations), operated by the Salt Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau, often offers the lowest rates available.

VERY EXPENSIVE

The Grand America Hotel ★★★ Built for the Olympics, this opulent downtown hotel is the place to stay for those who want the utmost in service and accommodations, and are willing to pay for it. Occupying an entire city block in downtown Salt Lake City, The Grand America is reminiscent of majestic European hotels, with more than 450,000 square feet of hand-tooled marble and granite. The exquisitely designed rooms include deluxe executive suites boasting 880 square feet of comfort and elegance, and beautifully appointed deluxe rooms with patios and balconies overlooking pool and garden areas. The concierge floor has a lounge. All rooms are equipped with large-screen TVs, three telephones, dataports, and the finest quality furnishings.

555 S. Main St., Salt Lake City, UT 84111. ✆ **800/621-4505** or 801/258-6000. Fax 801/258-6911. www.grandamerica.com. 775 units, including 395 suites. $209–$289 double; $229–$4,500 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; 2 indoor and 1 outdoor heated pools; fitness center; Jacuzzi; sauna; business center; shopping arcade; 24-hr. room service; in-room massage; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, cable TV, dataport, minibar, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron, safe.

EXPENSIVE

The Anniversary Inn–Salt City Jail ★ *Finds* A favorite with local couples, The Anniversary Inn makes for a fun romantic getaway, with themed rooms like the Jungle Safari (which features a life-size elephant), the hieroglyphic-clad Mysteries of Egypt, and the treehouse-themed Swiss Family Robinson. (The most popular is the luxurious Romeo and Juliet Suite, complete with marble, columns, and sweeping circular staircase.) Built on the site of an early-20th-century jail in a quiet, shady nook east of downtown, the inn has fun details in every room, as well as fireplaces, two-person jetted tubs, and surround-sound systems. Cheesecake and sparkling cider are waiting in your room at check-in; continental breakfast is delivered in the morning. There's also a 14-room Anniversary Inn in the historic Kahn Mansion, 678 E. South Temple, which shares a website and a phone with its larger sister property and is otherwise similar (with themed rooms and romantic perks), except for the lack of on-site restaurant.

460 E. 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84102. ✆ **800/324-4152** or 801/363-4900. www.anniversaryinn.com. 36 themed suites. $129–$269 double. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (steakhouse). *In room:* A/C, cable TV/DVD player.

The Armstrong Mansion Bed & Breakfast ★★ This stately mansion exudes an atmosphere of splendor and luxury. The B&B is an opulent Queen Anne–style Victorian home decorated with antiques and reproductions. It features such architectural delights as stained-glass windows and an intricately carved oak staircase. The four-story mansion, built in 1893 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was renovated in 1994 and now has an elevator. The stencils on the walls are reproductions of the mansion's original decorative patterns, discovered during renovation. A variety of rooms are available; there are three kitchenette suites in Annie's Cottage, a bright redbrick Victorian next door. The full all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet—served between 7:30 and 10am—consists of a hot dish, breads, and a variety of fruits.

667 E. 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84102. ✆ **800/708-1333** or 801/531-1333. Fax 801/531-0282. www.armstrongmansion.com. 16 units, including 3 suites. $99–$249 double; $209–$357 suite. Children stay free in family units. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Spa; massage. *In room:* A/C, TV, kitchenettes.

Hotel Monaco ★★ Effortlessly melding a lot of class with a little bit of quirk, Salt Lake City's Hotel Monaco occupies the 14-story former Continental Bank Building, built in 1924 and home of the world's first drive-through teller. The colorful lobby mixes classic and contemporary, as do the rooms, which captivate the senses with an eclectic array of patterns and colors. Goldfish are provided to those who don't have Fido in tow; Sweet Tarts are left behind upon nightly turndown service; and many rooms have spectacular city views. The Monaco is also home to an excellent restaurant, **Bambara** (See "Where to Dine," p. 87), and pumps complimentary Wi-Fi Internet access throughout the building, guest rooms included.

105 W. 200 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. ✆ **800/294-9710** or 801/595-0000. Fax 801/532-8500. www.monaco-saltlakecity.com. 225 units, including 12 suites. $109–$209 double; $169–$325 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking $15. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; exercise room; sauna; concierge; car rental; airport shuttle; business center; 24-hr. room service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, cable TV, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

The Inn at Temple Square ★★ A beautiful hotel brimming with 18th-century European elegance and style, The Inn at Temple Square is an exquisite little gem, offering wonderful service, food, and facilities. Built in 1930, the hotel has been restored and then some—it offers an experience reminiscent of the grand hotels of old, but with a warm, homey touch. The lobby is like a living room, with fine artwork,

couches, and chairs you can sink into. On the mezzanine level, you'll find a baby grand piano, a library with inviting reading areas, and a fireplace. Spacious guest rooms have a comfortable, old-world feel.

The Inn is just across from Temple Square, within easy walking distance of downtown theaters, restaurants, sites, spectator sports, and shopping. Passages Restaurant serves three meals Monday through Saturday in a casual setting. Amenities include valet parking. The entire facility is smoke-free.

71 W. South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. ✆ **800/843-4668** or 801/531-1000. Fax 801/536-7272. www.theinn.com. 95 units. $135–$155 double; $170–$270 suite. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (American); free passes to a nearby health club; airport shuttle; limited room service (6:30–9:30am, 11am–2pm, and 5–10pm Mon–Sat; hours are shorter on Sun); same-day dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, hair dryer, iron.

Little America Hotel ★★ *Kids* While now overshadowed by the majesty of its sister property, The Grand America, across the street, Little America is still among Salt Lake City's finest hotels, offering a wide variety of rooms, all individually decorated. Choices range from standard courtside units to extra-large deluxe tower suites in the 17-story high-rise—all are gracefully yet comfortably appointed in French Provincial style. The locally popular coffee shop opens at 6am; there's also a steakhouse and lounge. The hotel has a second-floor sun deck with an indoor/outdoor pool plus a separate, beautifully landscaped outdoor pool.

500 S. Main St., Salt Lake City, UT 84101. ✆ **800/453-9450** or 801/363-6781. Fax 801/596-5911. www.littleamerica.com/slc. 850 units, including 2 suites. $85–$169 double; $1,500 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; lounge; 2 pools (outdoor heated, indoor/outdoor heated); state-of-the-art health club; Jacuzzi; sauna; concierge; shopping arcade; salon; limited room service (6am–midnight); in-room massage; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV w/pay movies.

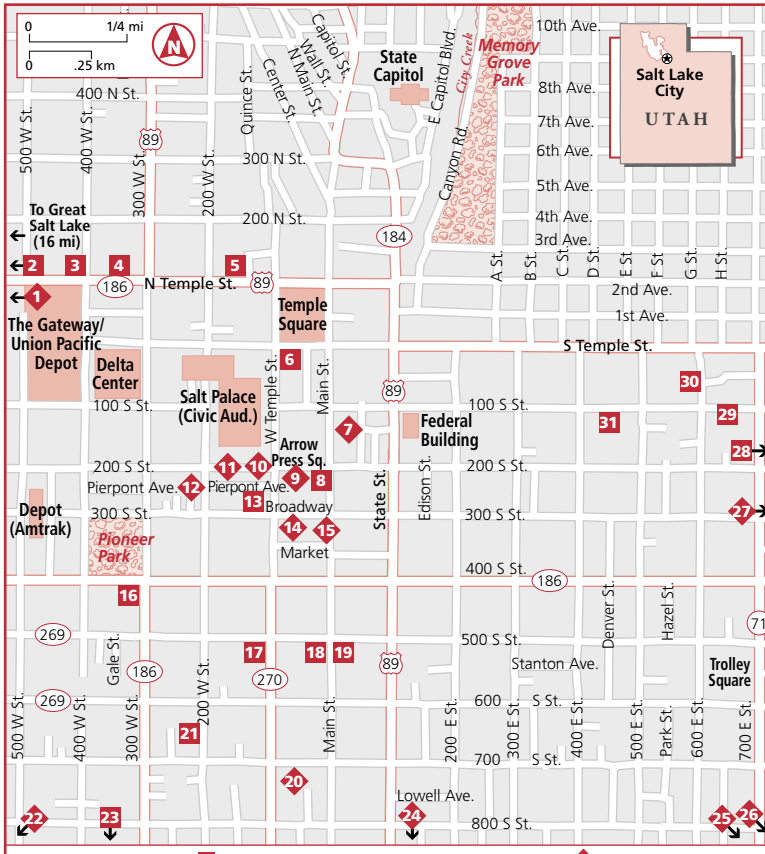
Peery Hotel ★★ *Finds* Among our top choices for those who appreciate the ambience of a historic hotel, the Peery is one of the few truly historic hotels in Salt Lake City. Completed in 1910, it has been fully renovated and restored to its former understated European elegance, offering comfortable, tastefully decorated accommodations. The lobby is delightful, with old-style pigeonholes for letters and a grand staircase to the upper floors. Each unique, handsomely appointed room contains period furnishings and pedestal sinks with antique brass fixtures. High-speed Internet access is complimentary; some units have refrigerators; and several suites have whirlpool tubs. The entire hotel is nonsmoking.

110 W. 300 South (Broadway), Salt Lake City, UT 84101. ✆ **800/331-0073** or 801/521-4300. Fax 801/575-5014. www.peeryhotel.com. 73 units. $99–$159 double; $189 and up suite (suite rates include breakfast for two). AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking fee $9 per day self, $12 per day valet. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; lounge; exercise room; concierge; business center; limited room service (6:30–10am and 6–9pm); same-day laundry service and dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

MODERATE

Anton Boxrud Bed & Breakfast Inn ★★ This beautiful three-story redbrick structure, built in 1901, is listed on the Salt Lake City Historical Register as "Victorian Eclectic." A boardinghouse from 1938 to 1968, it's now a lovely, comfortable bed-and-breakfast inn. Each room is individually decorated with a mix of antiques and reproductions; all have queen-size beds with down comforters. Pocket doors and stained-glass windows accent the sitting room, where guests gather to enjoy evening refreshments. An outdoor Jacuzzi is available year-round, and the property is wired with high-speed Wi-Fi. The homemade full breakfast includes a hot dish (sticky buns

Where to Stay & Dine in Salt Lake City



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are the specialty), and a continental breakfast is available for early risers. The entire property is smoke-free.

57 S. 600 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84102. ✆ **800/524-5511** or 801/363-8035. Fax 801/596-1316. www.antonboxrud.com. 7 units, 2 single rooms with shared bathroom. $78–$140 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, hair dryer, no phone.

Metropolitan Inn ★ This one-time chain motel was gutted in 2003 and is now a first-rate independent, clad in colorful stucco and equipped with stylish guest rooms. Art Deco reproductions and prints of *Wizard of Oz* characters hang above the beds (the Wicked Witch of the West excluded). Rooms have either one king-size bed or two queen-size, and the suites have microwaves, fridges, and a full-size hide-a-bed. The dinky outdoor pool is summer-only, but the hot tub is year-round. A Wi-Fi network serves the entire property, and there's a computer available in the lobby for guests without their own.

524 S. West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. ✆ **801/531-7100.** Fax 801/359-3814. www.metropolitaninn.com. 57 units, including 2 suites. $67–$99 double; $109–$150 suite. Rates include complimentary continental breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor heated pool; outdoor Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, cable TV, dataport, coffeemaker.

Saltair Bed & Breakfast ★ *Kids* Established in 1980, the Saltair is one of the oldest continuously operating B&Bs in Utah, although the building itself is quite a bit older. Now listed on the National Historic Register, it was constructed in 1903 and housed Salt Lake City's Italian Consulate in the early part of the century. Named for a resort built on the Great Salt Lake in the late 1800s, this inn boasts an enormous collection of Saltair memorabilia, from humorous postcards to knickknacks of all kinds. Units vary in size and specifics, from standard rooms to suites to cottages to a fully equipped bungalow. The cottages and bungalow are especially good for those traveling with children. All units are comfortably furnished with an eclectic variety of antiques, and goose-down comforters grace each bed. Some bathrooms have showers only, others have tub/shower combos, and one has a whirlpool tub for two. Several units have fully equipped kitchens.

164 S. 900 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84102. ✆ **800/733-8184** or 801/533-8184. Fax 801/595-0332. www.saltlakebandb.com. 13 units, 3 with shared bathroom. $55–$109 double; $109–$185 suites, cottages, and bungalow. Rates include full/continental breakfast (except in kitchen units). AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, TV, kitchen in some units, no phone.

CAMPGROUNDS

Salt Lake KOA/VIP This huge, well-maintained campground is the closest camping and RV facility to downtown Salt Lake City. Facilities include two pools, a hot tub, two playgrounds, Wi-Fi, a video arcade, two coin-operated laundries, several bathhouses, a convenience store with RV supplies, propane, an RV and car wash, well-maintained grassy areas for tents, and large shade trees. It offers 14 instant phone hookups, 200 sites with 50-amp power, and a jogging/pet-walk/bicycle trail behind the campground.

1400 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84116. ✆ **800/562-9510** or 801/355-1214. Fax 801/355-1055. www.slckoa.com. 396 sites. $22–$38; camping cabins $44–$50. MC, V. Advance reservations recommended May–Sept. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** 2 outdoor pools; Jacuzzi; coin-op washers and dryers; Wi-Fi network.

4 Where to Dine

Salt Lake City restaurants are more casual than those in most major American cities. The service is generally excellent and very friendly. Alcoholic drinks are not offered when diners are seated, so except in private clubs, you'll have to ask for a drink.

EXPENSIVE

Bambara ★★★ NEW AMERICAN A favorite lunch destination for the downtown business crowd, Bambara's slick dining room is the ideal pre- or post-theater dinner spot, or an ideal setting for a romantic meal. It's also conducive to people-watching, with windows on the busy (for Salt Lake, that is) intersection of Main and 200 South. Chef Robert Barker, a Texas transplant, brings a host of influences to the table, from Japanese to Italian to French, intermingling them without any one tradition overwhelming the others. The dinner menu changes regularly but always includes a delectable Utah corn bisque and a melt-in-your-mouth filet mignon with a roasted shallot-cabernet sauce. Breakfast is fairly traditional, and lunch brings sandwiches, steaks, and a savory Southern fried chicken salad. Popular three-course lunch and dinner specials go for $10 and $26, respectively. Service is understated and excellent. Full liquor service is available.

In the Hotel Monaco, 202 S. Main St. ✆ **801/363-5454.** www.bambara-slc.com. Reservations recommended. Breakfast $8.50–$12; lunch $8.50–$16; dinner $18–$32. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 7–10am and 11am–2pm; Sat 8–11am; Mon–Thurs 5:30–10pm; Fri–Sat 5:30–10:30pm; Sun 8am–noon and 5:30–9pm.

Market Street Grill ★★ SEAFOOD/STEAK The Market Street Grill is quite possibly Utah's best seafood restaurant. Expect a wait before you're led into the bustling dining room. The place is packed for good reason: Fresh fish is flown in daily from around the world, and the Grill knows how to do it up right.

We recommend the Pacific red snapper Monterey, served with fresh tomato sauce, mushrooms, garlic, white wine, and Gulf shrimp; and the cioppino, a seafood stew of lobster tail, shrimp, crab, cockles, snapper, and scallops—or choose one of about two dozen other seafood offerings. You'll also find a good choice of dinner salads, pastas, and excellent steaks. From 5 to 7pm the restaurant offers a fixed-price early-bird dinner special: a choice of slow-roasted prime rib, Alaskan halibut, or Atlantic salmon for $17. Look for all the standard breakfast choices, plus, fittingly, a seafood omelet; lunch includes salads, sandwiches, pasta, steaks, a variety of seafood dishes, and a $9.99 daily special. There's also a good Sunday brunch. Full liquor service is available.

A similar lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch menu is served at the **Market Street Grill–Cottonwood,** 2985 E. 6580 South (✆ **801/942-8860**).

48 Market St. ✆ **801/322-4668.** www.gastronomyinc.com. Reservations not accepted. Lunch $10–$20; dinner $12–$30. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 6:30am–3pm and 5–10pm; Fri 6:30am–3pm and 5–11pm; Sat 7am–3pm and 5–11pm; Sun 9am–3pm and 4–9:30pm.

The New Yorker ★★★ AMERICAN Among Utah's finest restaurants, The New Yorker is quiet sophistication, with rich woods, understated elegance, excellent food, and impeccable service. Technically a private club, you'll have to buy a membership to enter ($5), but trust us—it's worth it. The New Yorker offers complete liquor service—unlike many Utah restaurants, you can buy a drink here without ordering any food.

From the dining room dinner menu, choose the Maryland crab cakes, which are as good as—or better than—those you'll find anywhere; the certified Angus beef filet mignon with cabernet sauce and blue cheese; or the roasted rack of American lamb. Lunch brings dishes such as deep-fried Gulf white shrimp, served with fries, coleslaw, and cocktail sauce; veal schnitzel with green peppercorns and lemon butter sauce; or sandwiches and salads. In the less formal cafe, you'll find scaled-down fare, such as a bacon-and-avocado burger, fried camembert and pear with red pepper jelly, and an excellent cobb salad.

60 W. Market St. ✆ **801/363-0166.** www.gastronomyinc.com. Reservations recommended. Dining room main courses $8–$15 lunch, $20–$35 dinner; cafe main courses $7–$20. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dining room Mon–Thurs 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–10pm; Fri 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–10:30pm; Sat 5:30–10:30pm. Cafe Mon–Thurs 11:30am–2:30pm and 4:30–10:30pm; Fri 11:30am–2:30pm and 4:30–11pm; Sat 5:30–11pm.

Spencer's for Steaks and Chops ★★★ STEAK/CHOPS This sophisticated steakhouse is the perfect spot to celebrate a special occasion, or to just sit back and enjoy one of the best steaks you've ever tasted. The handsome dining room reminds us of a library in a British lord's country home, with dark wood, tapestry-like fabrics and wall coverings, historic photos, soft lighting, and intimate and comfortable booths. Service is attentive and efficient.

Beef is king here—aged, well-marbled USDA prime beef that is simply and perfectly prepared. We heartily recommend the New York strip, or the super-tender filet mignon. Other choices include prime rib, grilled vegetable pasta, double-cut lamb chops, and broiled chicken chop. Seafood lovers can choose the fresh fish of the day (flown in daily), grilled salmon, Alaskan king crab, or grilled prawns on linguine. Main courses include a house salad and hot, crusty bread. Accompaniments, such as the garlic skin-on smashed potatoes or Burgundy mushrooms, are a la carte. The lunch menu includes a half-pound burger, chicken breast on sourdough bread, grilled salmon, any dinner steak, and entree salads such as Caesar with salmon.

Spencer's is technically a private club, so you'll need to pay about $5 to join. It has an extensive wine list and an excellent selection of single malt Scotches, along with the best selection of cigars in the area.

Located in Hilton Salt Lake City Center, 255 S. West Temple. ✆ **801/238-4748.** www.spencersforsteaksandchops.com. Reservations recommended. Lunch items $6.95–$13; dinner main courses $18–$52. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–10pm; Fri 11:30am–11pm; Sat 5–11pm; Sun 5–10pm.

Tuscany ★★ NORTHERN ITALIAN Come to Tuscany for top-notch food and wine in a quaintly elegant setting on the wooded foot of the Wasatch Mountains. The restaurant is fittingly built to resemble an Italian mountain lodge, with massive beams, cathedral ceilings, an extensive use of rock, old-world murals, stained glass, and three enormous fireplaces. The northern Italian cuisine has been tempered with Western influences, resulting in delicious dishes such as hardwood-grilled, double-cut pork chop with scallion mashed potatoes, balsamic roasted onions, and pan juices; gnocchi Bolognese with traditional meat sauce and smoked buffalo mozzarella; and our favorite: oven roasted filet of salmon with pesto-smoked bacon crust served with toasted vegetable couscous. And be sure to save room for one of their homemade desserts such as rich old-fashioned chocolate cake, or vanilla bean crème brûlée with fresh berries. In summer you can dine alfresco in the lovely garden. Full liquor service is available.

2832 E. 6200 South. ✆ **801/277-9919.** www.tuscanyslc.com. Main courses lunch $8.75–$15; main courses dinner $14–$23. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Fri 11:30am–2pm; Mon–Thurs 5:30–9pm; Fri–Sat 5:30–9:30pm; Sun 10:30am–1:30pm brunch and 5:30–8:30pm.

MODERATE

Archibald's Restaurant AMERICAN Archibald's is housed in a restored 1877 flour mill that's listed on the National Historic Register. In each booth, you'll find a picture and brief discussion of one of Archibald Gardner's 11 wives. Menu items here range from American standards—burgers, top sirloin steak, or salmon—to more creative fare, such as deep-fried green tomatoes with creamy salsa. We heartily recommend the halibut and chips, or the ginger chicken salad—grilled chicken and almonds

over shredded lettuce, with olives, green onions, mushrooms, snow peas, and a sesame-ginger dressing. Beer and wine are available.

1100 W. 7800 South, West Jordan (in Gardner Village; see "Nearby Attractions," later in the chapter, for directions). ✆ **801/566-6940.** www.gardnervillage.com. Reservations accepted only for parties of 8 or more. Main courses lunch $5–$9; main courses dinner $8–$18. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–9pm; Fri–Sat 11am–10pm.

Baci Trattoria ★ NORTHERN ITALIAN This handsome and popular restaurant serves excellent Italian cuisine, and plenty of it. The dining room is decidedly modern, with a high ceiling, colorful contemporary art, a long, curved, stainless-steel bar, and a 40-foot-tall glass triptych. The menu includes a wide selection of innovative pizzas, baked in a wood-burning oven, plus pastas, chicken, veal, steaks, and seafood. Try the lasagna—either meat or vegetarian—or the *Pappardelle al Telefono,* pasta ribbons with creamy tomato sauce and mozzarella. The staff is friendly and efficient. Full liquor service is available.

134 W. Pierpont Ave. ✆ **801/328-1500.** www.gastronomyinc.com. Main courses lunch and dinner $8–$20. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–3pm and 5–10pm; Fri 11:30am–3pm and 5–11pm; Sat 5–11pm.

Cafe Pierpont *Kids* MEXICAN A lively Americanized version of a Mexican cantina, Cafe Pierpont is colorfully decorated with festive touches that give the restaurant an every-day-is-a-fiesta atmosphere. Portions are generous, to say the least, and the quality is excellent, although those accustomed to the fiery chile of New Mexico may find some of the dishes here a bit tame. All of the standard tacos, enchiladas, and burritos are available, along with more exotic Mexican specialties and a good selection of fresh seafood. But the fajitas are the real attraction—choose from mesquite-grilled chicken or beef, delivered to your table sizzling hot along with onions, guacamole, black beans, and hot handmade tortillas. We also recommended the coconut-dipped jumbo Mexican white shrimp, an appetizer served with jalapeño jelly. Finish up with the flan, a traditional Mexican custard covered with caramel sauce. Full liquor service (including 100 varieties of tequila) is available.

122 W. Pierpont Ave. ✆ **801/364-1222.** www.gastronomyinc.com. Main courses $8–$13. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11:30am–11pm; Sun noon–9pm.

Lamb's Grill Cafe ★★ *Finds* AMERICAN/CONTINENTAL Opened in 1919 in the northern Utah town of Logan, by Greek immigrant George Lamb, this restaurant moved to Salt Lake City's Herald Building in 1939 and has been serving the who's who of Utah here ever since. But this isn't one of those fancy places that you go to just to be seen; Lamb's is successful because it consistently serves good food at reasonable prices, with friendly, efficient service.

Decorated with antiques from the 1920s and 1930s, Lamb's is comfortable and unpretentious. The extensive menu offers mostly basic American and continental fare, although the restaurant's Greek origins are also evident. In a tip of the hat to the restaurant's moniker, several lamb dishes appear on the menu, including broiled French-style lamb chops and barbecued lamb shank. Other popular dinner selections—all available after 11:30am and cooked to order—include broiled New York steak topped with blue cheese, grilled baby-beef liver with sautéed onions, steamed finnan haddie (smoked haddock), Greek-style broiled chicken breasts with oregano, and grilled fresh rainbow trout. You'll also find a good selection of sandwiches and salads, daily pasta and salad specials, and a variety of desserts, including an extra-special rice pudding. Full liquor service is available.

169 S. Main St. ✆ **801/364-7166.** Main courses $5–$21. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 7am–9pm; Sat 8am–9pm.

Market Street Broiler *Value* SEAFOOD/STEAK/PASTA Market Street Broiler combines the atmosphere of the San Francisco wharf with the Southwest's famed mesquite grilling wood to produce—drum roll, please—mesquite-grilled fresh seafood. The Broiler's lobby is actually a fresh-fish market (open daily from 10am, with fish that's flown in fresh each day from around the world); you could take some fish home to prepare yourself, but it's a lot more fun to sit at the counter around the glass-enclosed kitchen and watch the chefs at work. Those not interested in a show can eat in the nautically themed dining room upstairs or on the patio in summer.

More casual than the Market Street Grill, the Broiler offers similarly excellent food at lower prices. Our favorites here include the scallops, shrimp, and halibut plate, prepared on a skewer with bell peppers and onion. We also like the fish and chips—your choice of salmon or halibut. Although seafood is definitely the specialty here, those not interested in fish won't leave hungry—other entrees include hickory-smoked barbecued baby back ribs, barbecued chicken, and certified Black Angus steaks. Full liquor service is available.

260 S. 1300 East. ✆ **801/583-8808.** www.gastronomyinc.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses lunch $9–$15; main courses dinner $9–$20. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11am–10:30pm; Sun 4–9pm (from 11am in summer).

Mayan at Jordan Commons *Kids* MEXICAN This huge restaurant (it seats 1,000) puts on a show as you chow down on variations of Mexican standards. The restaurant is spread over three floors and resembles an ancient Mayan temple in a tropical rainforest, complete with foliage, thunderstorms, and a few talking animals. There's even a lovely waterfall cascading 35 feet into a pool—watch for the cliff divers! The menu offers a wide selection of Mexican choices, from salads to tacos and burritos. Especially good are the shrimp tacos, served in a soft corn tortilla, with coleslaw, guacamole, and *pico de gallo;* and the Mayan Two-Fisted Burrito, a huge burrito that's stuffed with shredded cheese, black beans, Mexican rice, lettuce, *pico de gallo,* and your choice of fajita-style steak or chicken, and smothered with enchilada sauce or melted cheese. Full liquor service is available.

9400 S. State, Sandy. ✆ **801/304-4600.** www.themayan.com. Main courses $8–$13. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11am–11pm; Sun 11:30am–9pm.

Red Rock Brewing Company ★ AMERICAN This bustling brewpub is an excellent choice for a lunch or dinner accompanied by local beer. It has a slick, warehouselike atmosphere, with a high ceiling, brick walls, wood tables and chairs, and a long wooden bar that faces a wood-burning oven. Popular with local businesspeople, the restaurant offers a good variety of meals, from wood-fired pizza, salads, and pastas to sandwiches such as the French-onion steak and the Italian sausage grinder. Entrees include chicken Parmesan, lasagna, rotisserie chicken, chicken schnitzel, and that brewpub standard: fish and chips. They offer delicious home-brewed root beer, plus cream and orange sodas, and specialty coffees. But the place's reputation is built on its excellent beers; eight or nine varieties are available at any given time. Full liquor service is also available.

254 S. 200 West. ✆ **801/521-7446.** www.redrockbrewing.com. Main courses $6–$16. AE, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 11am–11pm; Fri–Sat 11am–midnight; bar open 1 hr. later than the dining room each night.

INEXPENSIVE

Café Trang ★ *Value* VIETNAMESE/CHINESE This family-owned and -operated restaurant has been known for serving some of the best Vietnamese food in the state

since 1987. The restaurant now also offers Chinese dishes—mostly Cantonese with some Vietnamese influences. The Oriental-style orange and black lacquer chairs glow warmly against the rich hunter green carpet and dark orange walls; Vietnamese paintings grace the walls; and two large aquariums add to the vibe. Menu items are listed by number—from 1 to 197—with brief English descriptions of each. A popular vegetarian specialty is the fried bean curd with grilled onions and crushed peanuts, served with rice papers, a vegetable platter, and peanut sauce. We enjoyed the spicy *Bun Ga Xao,* rice vermicelli noodles with sautéed chicken and lemon grass, served with grilled onions and peanuts. Beer and wine are available.

818 S. Main St. ✆ **801/539-1638.** Reservations recommended in winter. Main courses $5–$15. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–9:30pm; Fri–Sat 11am–10pm; Sun noon–9:30pm.

Crown Burgers *Kids* FAST FOOD In-the-know locals say this place serves the city's best fast-food burger—they're all charbroiled. But this isn't your average hamburger joint. Decorated like a European hunting lodge, with wall sconces, chandeliers, and a stone fireplace, Crown is something of an upscale fast foodery—but you still order at the counter, wait for your number to be called, and pick up your paper-wrapped food yourself. The minichain's signature burger is a cheeseburger piled with pastrami; the menu also offers a variety of other burgers, beef burritos, hot pastrami sandwiches, steak sandwiches, gyros, fishburgers, fries, onion rings, and more. The food is good, hot, and fast. No alcohol is served.

Additional Salt Lake City locations include 377 E. 200 South (✆ **801/532-1155**) and 118 N. 300 West (✆ **801/532-5300**), among others.

3190 S. Highland Dr. ✆ **801/467-6633.** Main courses $2.15–$6.60. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 10am–10pm. From downtown, follow State St. south to 2100 South and turn left (east); go about 1½ miles and turn right (south) onto Highland Dr.; Crown is about 2 miles down on your right.

Red Iguana ★ *Finds* MEXICAN Another locals' favorite, the family-owned and -operated Red Iguana is one of the few Mexican joints anywhere that specializes in mole—the spicy sauce that often contains chocolate. Just as the colorful dining room nearly overwhelms the eyes, the amarillo mole served over chicken nearly overwhelms the taste buds with its fiery combination of habanero and *guajillo* peppers, vegetables, and spices. There's also mole verde, mole negro, red pipian mole with peanuts and pumpkin seeds, and several other enticing variations. The menu doesn't begin and end with mole, however: There's also a full slate of Mexican standards, seafood, and egg dishes. Beer and wine are available.

736 W. North Temple. ✆ **801/322-1489.** www.rediguana.com. Main courses $6–$21. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–10pm; Fri–Sat 10am–11pm; Sun 10am–9pm. From downtown, follow North Temple west under the I-15 overpass; the restaurant is on your right.

5 Exploring Temple Square

This is sacred ground for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, also known as Mormons. (See the appendix, "Utah in Depth," to learn about the history of the church and modern Mormonism.) The 10-acre **Temple Square** ★★★ is enclosed by 15-foot walls, with a gate in the center of each. In addition to the church buildings, the square houses lovely gardens and statuary, and the North and South Visitor Centers, which have exhibits on the church's history and beliefs, interactive videos, and films. Also in the North Center is an 11-foot-tall replica of the awe-inspiring sculpture *Christus,* a statue of Christ by Danish artist Bertel Thorvaldsen.

The majestic **Temple** is used only for the LDS church's most sacred ceremonies and is not open to the public. Brigham Young chose the site within 4 days of entering the valley, and work began on the six-spired granite structure in 1853. It took 40 years to complete.

The oval **Tabernacle** seats 6,500 people and has one of the West's largest unsupported domed roofs. The Tabernacle has fantastic acoustics and has served as the city's cultural center for over a century.

On Thursday evenings at 8pm, you can listen to the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir** ★★★ rehearse (except when they're on tour; call ✆ **801/240-3221** or visit www.mormontabernaclechoir.org to check), and on Sunday mornings you can attend their broadcast from 9:30 to 10am (you must be seated by 9:15am). The choir, composed entirely of volunteers, was formed shortly after the first pioneers arrived; many husband-and-wife members and families participate, sometimes over several generations. The Tabernacle organ has been rebuilt several times, and has grown from the original 1,600 pipes and two manuals to 11,623 pipes and five manuals. The organ is said to have an instantly recognizable signature sound. Half-hour organ recitals take place year-round, Monday through Saturday at noon, Sunday at 2pm. At peak times, an additional 2pm recital is often scheduled Monday through Saturday. Admission to these performances is free.

The Gothic-style **Assembly Hall** was constructed in 1880 from leftover granite from the Temple and has lovely soaring white spires and stained-glass windows. Free concerts are offered here most weekends; inquire at a visitor center for schedules. Two monuments stand in front of the Assembly Hall: One depicts a pioneer family arriving with a handcart filled with their belongings, and the second commemorates the salvaging of the first crops from a plague of crickets (seagulls swooped down and ate the insects).

Guided tours of the square, lasting approximately 45 minutes and available in 30 languages, leave every few minutes from the flagpole in front of the Tabernacle; personnel in the visitor center can direct you. Tour guides provide a general history of the church (touching upon the church's doctrine) and take you around the square, briefly explaining what you are seeing. Our favorite part of the tour is in the Tabernacle: To demonstrate the incredible acoustics, the group is ushered to the back of the seats while someone stands at the podium and drops three pins—the sound is as clear as a bell! The tour ends at the North Visitor Center with a short film on Mormon beliefs. You are then asked to fill out a card with your name and address, indicating whether you'd like to receive a visit from Mormon missionaries.

The square is bounded by Main Street on the east and North, South, and West Temple streets. The LDS Church recently purchased the stretch of Main Street on the square's east side, closed it to traffic, and transformed it into a lovely park with trees, flowers, walking paths, and benches; a large reflecting pool dominates the area, displaying a mirror image of the magnificent Temple.

Across North Temple Street from the Square is the **Conference Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** (✆ **801/240-0075**). This huge complex has a **main auditorium** for worship services, meetings, and conference rooms that could easily hold a Boeing 747, plus a magnificent **proscenium theater** that seats 900, and a four-level underground parking facility with 1,300 spaces.

When the church leaders realized there would be 4 acres of **roof** over the conference center, they decided to do something special. And boy did they—the designers have created a wild landscape reminiscent of a Utah mountain on the outside of the

roof. There are bristlecone pines, aspens, Serbian spruces, 21 native meadow grasses, and 300 varieties of Utah wildflowers. An immense fountain flows in four directions and eventually into the Conference Center spire, from which it streams south to cascade 67 feet down the south face of the building. The roof is a serene oasis in the middle of a busy modern city—people sit or stroll and enjoy the views of the city set against the Wasatch Mountains.

The Conference Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 9pm; free guided tours of the complex are offered approximately every 15 minutes.

The enclosed Temple Square is open daily from 6am to 10pm. Visitor centers are open daily from 9am to 9pm; tours are given between 9am and 8pm. Hours are reduced on Christmas. Call ✆ **800/537-9703** or 801/240-4872 for more information, or browse **www.visittemplesquare.com** or **www.lds.org**. The Trax train stops right out front, at the Temple Square station. Allow 1 to 3 hours to tour the square.

6 More Attractions

Family History Library ★★ This incredible facility contains what is probably the world's largest collection of genealogical records under one roof. The growing collection is composed of a substantial number of records from around the United States, fairly comprehensive data from Scotland and England, and information from many other countries. Most of the records, which date from about 1550 to 1920, are from governments, various churches and other organizations, and individuals.

The Mormons believe that families are united for eternity through marriage and other sacred ordinances given in the temples. These ordinances, such as baptism ceremonies, can be done on behalf of ancestors—hence the interest in tracing all deceased family members.

When you enter the library, help is available to assist with your research. There are forms you can fill out with any and all data you already know (so come prepared with copies of whatever you have), and you will be directed from there. An orientation is given to newcomers and includes a handout and a map of the library. Volunteers are stationed around the library to help with anything you need.

Some of the records are in books, and many have been converted to microfilm, microfiche, and computer files. The volunteers will show you how to use any unfamiliar machines. One of the easiest ways to begin a search is to start with the place where your ancestors lived, because records are organized first by the geographical origin. From there, you can spend hours immersed in discovering the whos, whats, wheres, and whys of your family history—we know, we did it!

35 N. West Temple. ✆ **800/346-6044** or 801/240-2584. www.familysearch.org. Free admission. Mon 8am–5pm; Tues–Sat 8am–9pm. Closed major holidays and July 24. Trax: Temple Square.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS & MONUMENTS

Beehive House ★ This house was built in 1854 as Brigham Young's family home. Young also kept an office here and entertained church and government leaders on the premises. Young, a lover of New England architecture, utilized much of that style in his house, including a widow's walk for surveying the surrounding desert. Today, visitors can get a glimpse of the lifestyle of this famous Mormon leader by taking a guided half-hour tour of the house. It has been decorated with period furniture (many pieces original to the home) to resemble its appearance when Young lived here, as described in a journal kept by his daughter Clarissa. Young's bedroom is to the left of

the entrance hall. The Long Hall, where formal entertaining took place, is on the second floor; it was also used as a dormitory to house visitors. Young's children gathered in the sewing room, where they helped with chores, bathed by the stove, and studied Christian principles. Only one of Young's 27 wives lived in the Beehive House at a time; the rest, with some of the children, lived next door in the **Lion House** (now a banquet facility and restaurant open Mon–Sat from 11am–8pm) or in other houses. Built of stuccoed adobe in 1855 through 1856, the Lion House was named for the stone lion guarding its entrance.

Before you leave, stop at **Eagle Gate,** a 76-foot gateway that marked the entrance to the Brigham Young homestead, located at the corner of State Street and South Temple. It's been altered several times over the years, and the original wooden eagle has been replaced by a 4,000-pound metal version with a 20-foot wingspan. Allow about an hour.

67 E. South Temple. ✆ **801/240-2671.** www.lds.org/placestovisit. Free admission. Mon–Sat 9am–9pm. Trax: Temple Square; walk a half-block east.

Brigham Young Monument This marker, near the southeast corner of Temple Square, was placed here to honor Young, the other pioneers who accompanied him here in 1847, and the American Indians and fur trappers who preceded them. Allow 15 minutes.

At Main and S. Temple sts. www.lds.org/placestovisit.

Capitol Building ★ Built between 1912 and 1915 of unpolished Utah granite and Georgia marble, the capitol, considered one of the finest examples of Renaissance Revival style in the West, rests on a hill in a beautifully landscaped 40-acre park. The state symbol, the beehive (representing industry and cooperation), is a recurring motif both inside and out. Those who don't want to take the free tour can walk through on their own.

The **Rotunda,** which stretches upward 165 feet, is decorated with murals painted during the WPA years (the four largest depict important scenes in the state's early history) and houses several busts of prominent historical figures, including Brigham Young and Philo T. Farnsworth, the man whom we can all thank for bringing us television. The chandelier is astounding—weighing 6,000 pounds and hanging from a 7,000-pound chain.

Other rooms include the State Reception Room, known as the Gold Room because the walls are made from locally mined gold-traverse marble; the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor; the Hall of Governors, a portrait gallery that honors all those who have served as governor of Utah since statehood in 1896; and the offices of Utah's attorney general. Downstairs, you'll find a small souvenir shop and some exhibits, including a large topographical map of Utah.

The third floor houses the Senate, House of Representatives, and Supreme Court of Utah. You can either climb one of the two marble staircases or take the elevator. The state legislature meets for 45 days in January and February; visitors are welcome to sit in the galleries on the fourth floor, which overlook the chambers. In front of the House of Representatives, you'll see a replica of the Liberty Bell, one of 53 bronzed and cast in France in 1950. Allow at least an hour to explore here.

Note: At press time, the capitol was in the midst of a multi-year restoration project and closed to the public until 2008. Call for current information.

Capitol Hill, at the north end of State St. ✆ **801/538-3000.** Free admission and tours. Building daily 8am–8pm; guided tours every half-hour Mon–Fri 9am–4pm. Bus: 23 up Main St.

Council Hall Completed in 1866, Council Hall is a fine example of Federal Greek Revival architecture. Originally located downtown, it first served as City Hall and the meeting place for the Territorial Legislature; in the early 1960s it was dismantled, coded, and reassembled—block by sandstone block, 325 of them—in its present location. Today, it houses the Utah Travel Council (www.utah.com) upstairs; the ground floor contains a bookstore and gift shop. Allow 45 minutes.

Capitol Hill, 300 N. State St. ✆ **800/200-1160** or 801/538-1030. Free admission. Mon–Fri 8am–5pm; Sat–Sun and holidays 10am–5pm. Bus: 23 to the Capitol.

Governor's Mansion Silver magnate Thomas Kearns started building this palatial home in 1898, sparing no expense to make it as lavish as possible. African and Italian marble and exotic woods from around the world were used extensively throughout. Kearns' widow deeded it to the state in 1937, and the 36-room mansion is now the governor's residence. It suffered a devastating fire just before Christmas 1993, but has been fully restored to its 1902 appearance (1902 was the year that the Kearns family first moved in). The best time to see the mansion is in December, when it's elaborately decorated for Christmas. Allow about half an hour.

603 E. South Temple. ✆ **801/538-1005.** Free admission. Apr–Sept Tues–Thurs 2–4pm; call for hours at other times. Trax: Trolley Square.

Joseph Smith Memorial Building Between 1911 and 1987, this building served as the world-renowned Hotel Utah. Since renovated and converted into offices, meeting spaces, restaurants, and reception areas (it's very popular for wedding receptions), the architectural details have been lovingly restored throughout; the lobby retains its art-glass ceiling and massive marble pillars. It's worth a stop for a peek inside.

There are 200 computers in the **FamilySearch Center** (✆ **801/240-4085**), and a staff to help with your genealogical research. A big-screen 500-seat theater offers free (but ticket required, call ✆ **801/240-4383** for schedule and to reserve a ticket) showings of an hour-long movie about the life of Christ. Allow half an hour to an hour and a half.

15 E. South Temple. ✆ **800/537-9703** or 801/240-1266. www.lds.org/placestovisit. Free admission. Mon–Sat 9am–9pm. Trax: Temple Square.

MUSEUMS

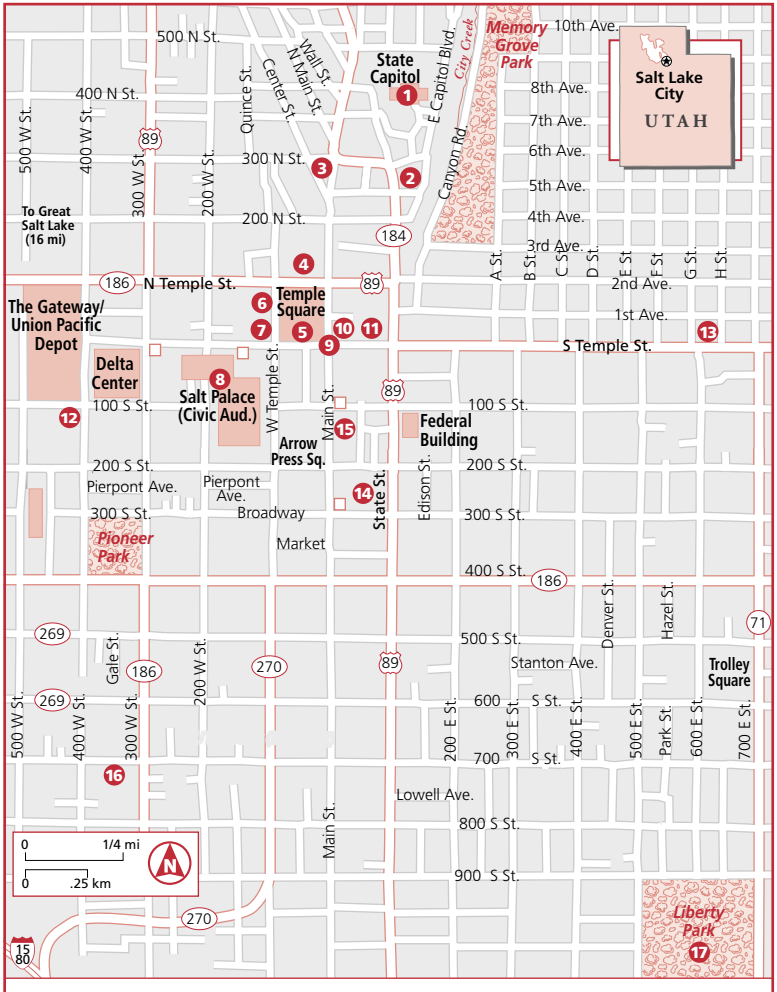
At press time, the **Museum of Utah Art and History,** 125 S. Main St. (✆ **801/355-5554;** www.muahnet.org), was a work in progress, open Tuesday through Sunday from 11am to 3pm, with one operative gallery and ongoing construction. Call the museum for current information.

Clark Planetarium ★ *Kids* This state-of-the-art planetarium presents star shows depicting the wonders of the universe, light shows, and big-screen movies in Utah's only 3-D IMAX theater. It also contains a variety of interactive exhibits ranging from a display about the names of the planets to a Foucault pendulum, plus a rotating relief globe. Allow 1 to 3 hours.

110 S. 400 West. ✆ **801/456-7827.** www.clarkplanetarium.org. Free admission to museum; shows $8 adults, $5 children 12 and under. Mon–Thurs 11am–9pm; Fri–Sat 11am–midnight; Sun 11am–8pm. Bus: 18.

Classic Cars International Antique Auto Museum of Utah More than 200 antique and classic cars are packed into several showrooms here, and many are for sale. Although the collection is constantly changing, we admired a 1903 Steven Duryea, a beautiful bright yellow 1926 Stutz Bearcat, an elegant 1929 dual cowl Duesenberg, a 1936 Packard V-12 two-door convertible, several 1959 big-finned Cadillac convertibles,

Downtown Salt Lake City Attractions



Beehive House **11**
Brigham Young Monument **9**
Capitol Building, Capitol Hill **1**
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Gallivan Plaza **14**
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Salt Lake Art Center **8**
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and a 1925 Packard Phaeton convertible owned by gangster Al Capone. There are usually a number of muscle cars from the 1960s as well. All cars in the collection, whether original or restored, are fully operational. You'll also see antique slot machines, gas pumps, and a jukebox. Allow at least 45 minutes to an hour.

355 W. 700 South. ✆ **801/322-5509** or 801/582-6853. www.classiccarmuseumsales.com. Admission $6 adults, $4 seniors 55 and over and children 12 and under. Mon–Sat 8:30am–4:30pm and by appointment. From Temple Sq., head south on Main St. to 700 South; turn right (west) and go 3½ blocks.

Gallivan Plaza Some call this Salt Lake City's outdoor living room. You'll find intimate spaces, performances, food, all kinds of characters and activities, and good vantage points for watching the goings-on. Wander through the large art exhibit and the gigantic outdoor chessboard with waist-high pieces, and enjoy the pond, amphitheater, outdoor ice skating rink (call or visit their website for hours and rates), and aviary. Allow 30 minutes, or more for skating.

239 S. Main St. (the entire block between Main and State sts., and 200 and 300 South). ✆ **801/535-6110.** www.gallivanevents.com. Free admission. Daily 7am–10pm. Trax: Gallivan Plaza.

Museum of Church History and Art This collection of church art and artifacts, started in 1869, includes Utah's earliest Mormon log home, rare 1849 Mormon gold coins, and a scale model of Salt Lake City in 1870. The history of the LDS Church is related in the exhibits that describe each of the church presidents, from Joseph Smith to present; activities include multimedia programs, films, and puppet shows. There's also a museum shop (closed Sun.). Allow 1 hour.

45 N. West Temple. ✆ **801/240-3310** or 801/240-4615. www.lds.org/placestovisit. Free admission. Mon–Fri 9am–9pm; Sat–Sun and most holidays 10am–7pm. Trax: Temple Square.

Pioneer Memorial Museum Operated by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, this museum, housed in a Grecian-style building, contains an immense collection of pioneer portraits and memorabilia. All four stories are packed with relics of Utah's history, such as paintings, photos, and the personal effects of church leaders Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball. The collection also includes a manuscript room, household displays, and exhibits on spinning, weaving, railroading, mining, and guns. The restored 1902 steam fire engine is our favorite exhibit. You can walk through on your own or with the aid of a guide sheet; tours are also available. A 12-minute film is shown throughout the day. Allow 1 hour.

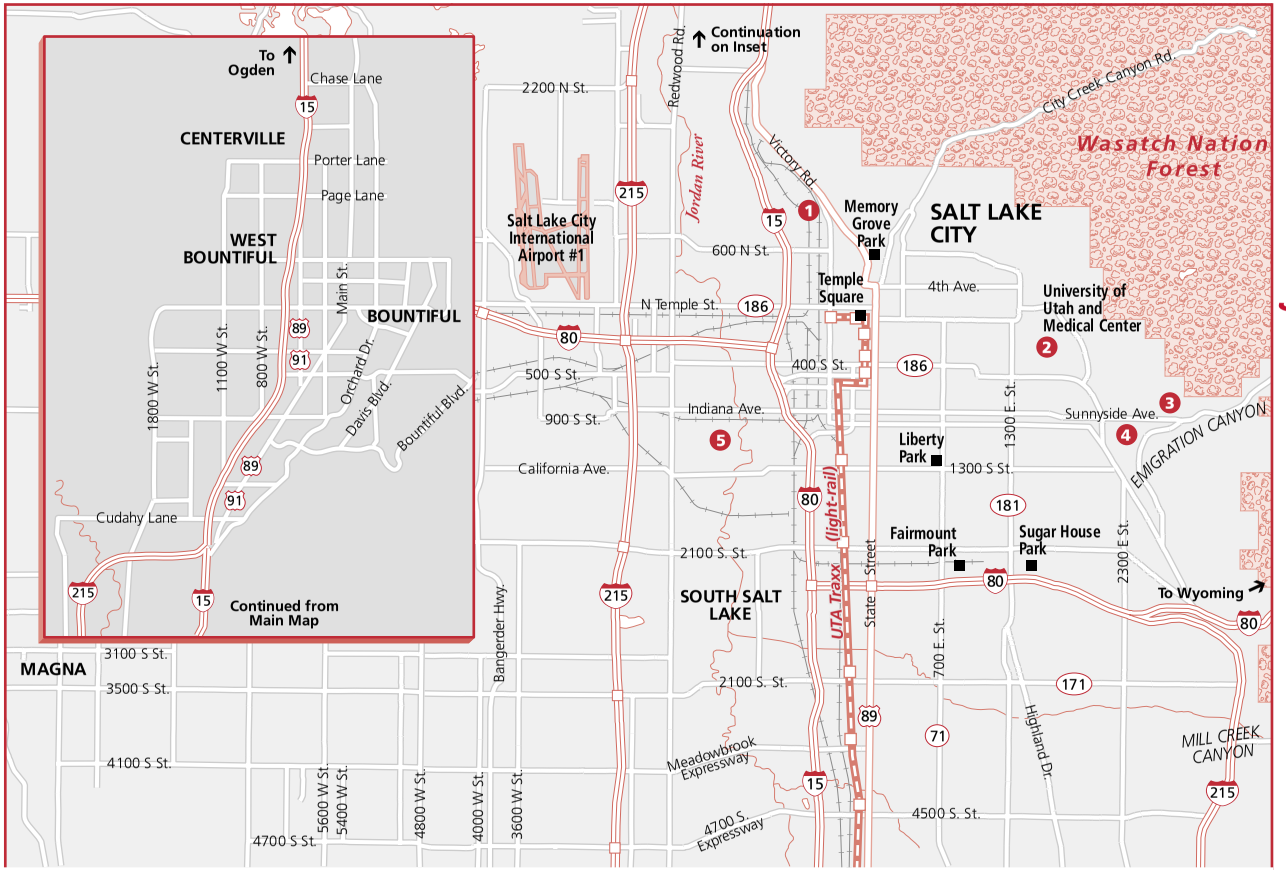
300 N. Main St. ✆ **801/532-6479.** Free admission; contributions welcome. Mon–Sat 9am–5pm; June–Aug Sun noon–5pm. Closed major holidays. Bus: 23.

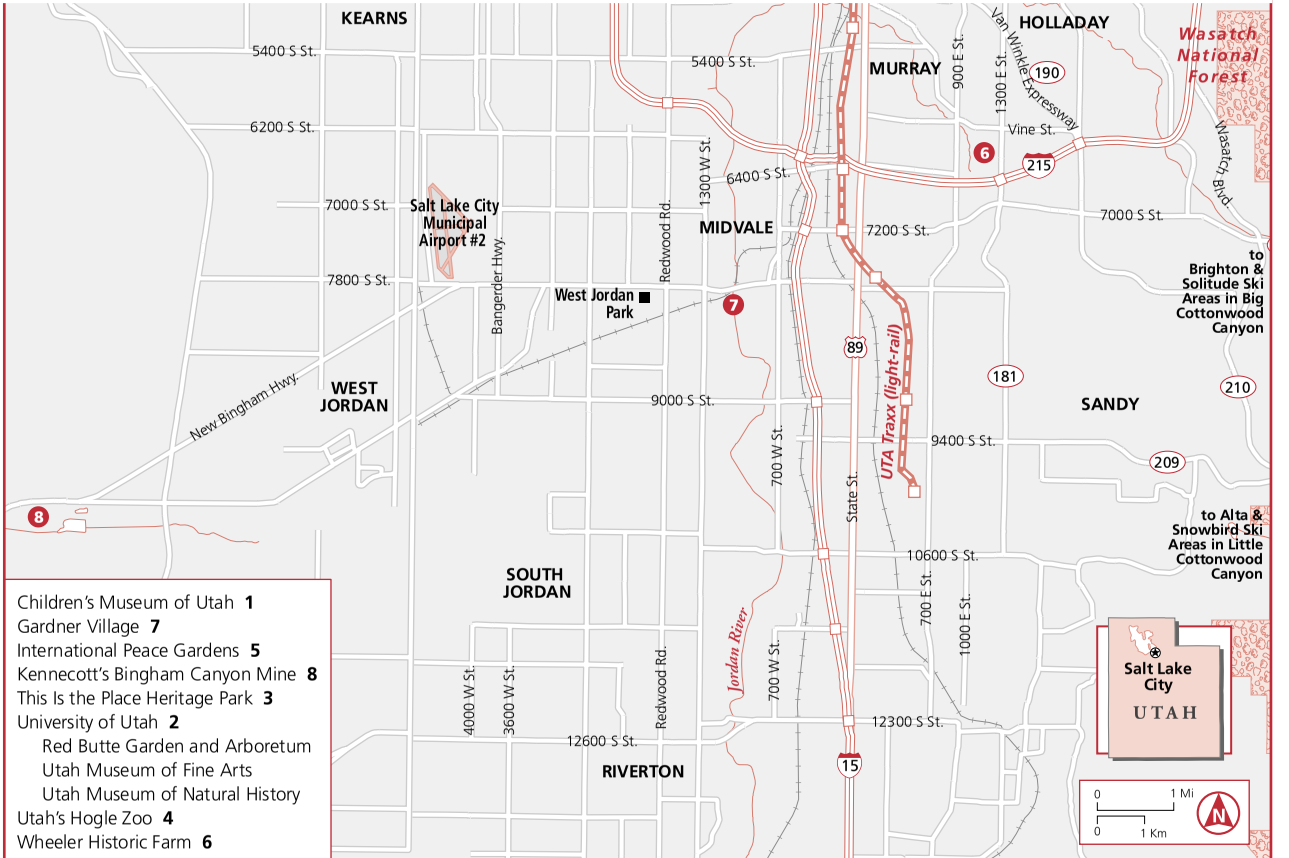
Salt Lake Art Center Changing exhibits feature contemporary works by local, regional, and national artists. There are generally several simultaneous exhibitions in a variety of media, including paintings, photographs, sculptures, and ceramics. Allow at least 1 hour, and check the schedule for lectures, poetry readings, concerts, and workshops.

20 S. West Temple. ✆ **801/328-4201.** www.slartcenter.org. Free admission; donations welcome. Tues–Thurs and Sat 10am–5pm; Fri 10am–9pm; Sun 1–5pm. Trax: Temple Square.

University of Utah Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opened the University of Deseret in 1850, just 2½ years after they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. It closed 2 years later, due to lack of funds and the greater need for primary education, but reopened in 1867 as a business academy. The name changed in

Greater Salt Lake Valley Attractions





Children's Museum of Utah **1**
Gardner Village **7**
International Peace Gardens **5**
Kennecott's Bingham Canyon Mine **8**
This Is the Place Heritage Park **3**
University of Utah **2**
- Red Butte Garden and Arboretum
- Utah Museum of Fine Arts
- Utah Museum of Natural History

Utah's Hogle Zoo **4**
Wheeler Historic Farm **6**

1892, and the growing school moved to its present location in 1900. The university now sprawls over 1,500 acres on the east side of the city.

The university's **Red Butte Garden and Arboretum** ★★ (✆ **801/581-4747;** www.redbuttegarden.org) features 50 acres of display gardens and another 100 acres in their natural state, with 4 miles of nature trails. Located in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains, this is a terrific spot to take a break. The gardens are open May through August, Monday through Saturday from 9am to 9pm, Sunday from 9am to 5pm, with shorter hours the rest of the year. Admission is $2 for adults, and $3 for children 4 to 17 and seniors 60 and over. From downtown, drive east on 400 South, past the university entrance, continuing until 400 South becomes Foothill Drive; turn east on Wakara Way and continue to the entry drive. Allow 2 hours.

The University is also home to the **Utah Museum of Fine Arts** and the **Utah Museum of Natural History** (both below).

University of Utah. General information line ✆ **801/581-7200.** www.utah.edu. Trax: University Line.

Utah Museum of Fine Arts ★★ This is among the very best art museums in the state, boasting a permanent collection of more than 17,000 objects. Changing displays might include Greek and Egyptian antiquities, Italian Renaissance works, art by European masters, Early American art, 20th century lithographic prints and photography, and art objects from Southeast Asia, China, Japan, and African and pre-Columbian cultures. Exhibits highlight shows from other institutions and private collections. The 74,000-square-foot museum has over 20 galleries, a bookstore, a cafe, a community education center, and a sculpture garden. Allow 2 to 4 hours.

At the University of Utah, 410 Campus Center Dr. ✆ **801/581-7332.** www.umfa.utah.edu. Admission $4 adults, $2 seniors and children 6–18, free for children under 6. Tues–Fri 10am–5pm (Wed until 8pm); Sat and Sun noon–5pm. Closed Mon and major holidays. Trax: South Campus Dr.

Utah Museum of Natural History *Kids* Located in the old university library building, this museum covers more than 200 million years. Some 200 exhibits—including intriguing dinosaur exhibits—describe the geologic and natural history of Utah right up to the present. Allow 1 hour.

At the University of Utah, 1390 E. 220 South. ✆ **801/581-4303.** www.umnh.utah.edu. Admission $6 adults, $3.50 seniors 62 and older and children 3–12. Mon–Sat 9:30am–5:30pm; Sun and holidays noon–5pm. Trax: South Campus Dr.

PARKS & GARDENS

International Peace Gardens ★ Begun in 1939 by the Salt Lake Council of Women, the Peace Gardens have expanded over the years and now belong to the city. Take a stroll along the Jordan River, through the gardens, and past statuary and displays representing different countries (such as Buddha statues, windmills, and Viking tomb replicas). Benches are scattered about for moments of rest and contemplation. Allow about 1 hour.

Jordan Park, 1060 S. 900 West. ✆ **801/972-7860.** Free admission. May–Sept daily 7am–dusk. Bus: 16.

Liberty Park ★★ *Kids* This delightful city park has trails for walking and jogging, tennis courts, a small lake with ducks and paddleboat rentals, picnic facilities, a playground, a children's garden, a children's amusement park, a museum, and an excellent aviary. Covering 100 acres, this is a favorite gathering spot for locals, as well as one of the best dog-walking areas in the city (dogs must be leashed and owners must clean up after them). In the park, the **Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts** (✆ **801/533-5760;**

www.folkartsmuseum.org), in the historic Brigham Young/Chase home, contains exhibits of pioneer art, American Indian art, and folk art. Allow a half-hour. **Tracy Aviary** (✆ **801/596-8500;** www.tracyaviary.org), in the southwest section of the park, has more than 400 birds, including a number of endangered species. There's a special exhibit of Australian parrots called lories ($1 extra per person), and free-flying bird shows are presented during the summer (call for schedule). Allow at least 1 hour.

Between 500 and 700 East, and 900 and 1300 South. Entrances from 900 and 1300 South. ✆ **801/972-7800** for the city parks department. Park and museum free admission; Tracy Aviary admission $5 adults, $4 seniors 65 and older, $3 children 4–12. Park daily 6am–11pm (dawn–dusk in winter). Museum Mon–Thurs noon–5pm and Fri–Sun 2–7pm Memorial Day to Labor Day; Sat–Sun noon–5pm Apr to Memorial Day and Labor Day to Oct; closed Nov–Mar. Tracy Aviary daily 9am–6pm (closes 4:30pm Nov–Mar). Bus: 10 or 32.

This Is the Place Heritage Park Brigham Young and the Mormon pioneers got their first glimpse of the Salt Lake Valley at the site of this historic park. A tall granite and bronze sculpture was erected in 1947 to commemorate the centennial of their arrival. The park, which covers more than 1,600 acres, offers hiking along part of the trail used by the pioneers, with opportunities for cross-country skiing in winter. This is a good place for wildlife viewing and birding in winter and spring, with additional songbirds and raptors present in summer and fall. There's a picnic area, but no camping, and a visitor center contains exhibits depicting the Mormon pioneers' trek from Illinois to the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847. Allow 30 minutes.

Also in the park, **Old Deseret Village** is a pioneer village comprised of original buildings from across the state along with some reproductions. In summer and during special events it becomes a living-history museum of the period from 1847 to 1869, with costumed villagers and a variety of demonstrations and activities, including wagon rides. Allow 1 to 2 hours. For a week each December the village re-creates a pioneer Christmas celebration.

2601 E. Sunnyside Ave. ✆ **801/582-1847.** www.thisistheplace.org. Free admission to park and visitor center. Admission to Deseret Village $6 adults, $4 children 3–11 and seniors 62 and over. Park daily dawn–dusk; visitor center Mon–Sat 9am–6pm; Deseret Village summer Mon–Thurs 10am–6pm, Fri–Sat 10am–9pm, call for off-season hours.

Utah's Hogle Zoo ★ *Kids* This small, modern zoo near the entrance to Emigration Canyon is home to 1,100 animals representing over 250 species. You'll find a solarium with exotic plants and birds, tropical gardens, rare Grevy's zebras, and a giraffe house with a balcony so you can look eye-to-eye with the tall-necked creatures. The newer residents of the zoo include Acara, a baby orangutan, and a little coendu (a prehensile-tailed porcupine), both born at the zoo in 2005. In summer, rides on a small replica of an 1869 steam train are offered for the bargain price of $1. As with any zoo, it's best to visit in a cooler season, or at least the coolest part of the day, when more animals are out and about. Allow 1 to 2 hours. The Discovery Theatre presents three children's programs daily.

2600 E. Sunnyside Ave. ✆ **801/582-1631.** www.hoglezoo.org. Admission $8 adults, $6 children 3–12 and seniors 65 and older. Mar–Oct daily 9am–5pm (grounds close 6:30pm); Nov–Feb daily 9am–4pm (grounds close 5:30pm). Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS

In addition to what's listed below, the **Clark Planetarium** (p. 95), **Utah's Hogle Zoo** (p. 101), **Liberty Park** (p. 100), and the **Utah Museum of Natural History** (p. 100) are great places for kids.

Children's Museum of Utah ★★ Kids With more than 140 permanent exhibits, this is the place for kids of all ages to explore: Children can get their faces painted, pilot a jet, or excavate a woolly mammoth on an archaeological dig. The museum also features a child-size grocery store where kids can be both shoppers and checkers, and a room where shadows "stick" to a wall. A "color factory" helps children discover music, dance, and theater through colors—they can create color in the Chromolator and use the Bubbelator to play a tune. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Allow 1 to 3 hours. ***Note:*** As we went to press, plans and a major fund-raising campaign were underway to relocate the museum to larger quarters in the Gateway area on the west side of downtown; call or check the website for the current location.

840 N. 300 West. ✆ **801/322-5268** or 801/328-3383. www.childmuseum.org. Admission $5, free for children under 1. Mon–Thurs and Sat 10am–5pm; Fri 10am–8pm. Closed Mon early Sept to Dec. Bus: 55 or 70.

Wheeler Historic Farm Kids This living-history dairy farm, where you can see demonstrations of farming and daily activities from the late 19th century, features hundred-year-old farm buildings, a small petting zoo, and a nature preserve. Activities include experiencing various farm chores, such as egg gathering and cow milking, farmhouse tours, and tractor-driven wagon rides. Allow 1 to 2 hours. A variety of annual events are also offered, including a scarecrow masquerade, a holiday lights festival, breakfast with Santa, and a summer camp week.

In Cottonwood Regional Park, 6351 S. 900 East (just north of I-215 exit 9). ✆ **801/264-2241.** www.wheelerfarm.com. Free admission to farm; 50¢–$10 fees for tours and other activities. Daily dawn–dusk. Bus: 33 or 44.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Gardner Village This quaint village is a cluster of restored historic homes and buildings surrounding Gardner Mill, a flour mill built by Scottish immigrant Archibald Gardner in 1877. Brass plaques tell the stories of each of the historic structures. The mill, which is on the National Historic Register, now houses a large store specializing in country furniture and gift items, as well as Archibald's Restaurant (p. 88). Close to two dozen shops in the other historic buildings, connected by redbrick paths, sell a wide range of items, including art, crafts, clothing, candy, quilts, dolls, and home furnishings. There's also a spa, a bakery, and a picturesque duck pond. Plan to spend at least an hour here.

1100 W. 7800 South, West Jordan. ✆ **801/566-8903.** www.gardnervillage.com. Free admission. Shops Mar–Dec Mon–Sat 10am–8pm; Jan–Feb Mon–Sat 10am–6pm. The village is 12 miles south of downtown. From I-15 take exit 297 and head west on 7200 South, turn left (south) onto Redwood Rd. and left again on 7800 South, they are on the left (north) side of the road. From I-215, take exit 13 for Redwood Rd. and follow directions above. Trax: Midvale Center.

Kennecott's Bingham Canyon Mine ★ Kids The world's largest open-pit copper mine, at 2½ miles wide and three-quarters of a mile deep, is quite a sight to see; almost as fascinating are the huge—and we do mean huge—trucks that transport the ore. The visitor center, 2,000 feet above the floor of the open-pit mine, offers a spectacular view, and you might even see an explosion as rock is blasted away to expose more copper ore. In addition to the observation area, the visitor center has interactive exhibits—including 3-D microscopes for examining minerals—and a 14-minute video presentation that recounts the mine's history and geology and describes its operations. Proceeds from admission fees are donated to local charities. Allow about 1 hour.

Utah 48 (7200 South), about 25 miles southwest of Salt Lake City outside Copperton. ✆ **801/252-3234.** www.kennecott.com. Admission $4 per vehicle. Apr–Oct daily 8am–8pm. Closed Nov–Mar. Take I-15 south to exit 297 for Midvale; head west on Utah 48 to the mine.

7 Organized Tours

Gray Line–Innsbruck Tours, 3359 S. Main St., Suite 804 (✆ **801/534-1001;** www.grayline.com), offers several tours of the city and surrounding areas, including the Bingham Copper Mine and Great Salt Lake. A 4- to 5-hour tour of the city and Mormon Trail costs $32, and a 4½-hour tour to the mine, which includes a stop at the beach on the Great Salt Lake, is $42. A 6-hour tour of the city and the Great Salt Lake costs $53, and a 5-hour tour to Park City and through the nearby mountains costs $52.

Salt Lake City–based **AdventureBus,** 21 E. Kelsey Ave. (✆ **888/737-5263;** www.adventurebus.com), hosts group trips throughout the Southwest and Rocky Mountains, with an emphasis on national parks and mountain-biking meccas. The cost runs about $120 a day, food included, with accommodations at campgrounds and inside their clean and sharply outfitted buses with couches that convert into beds.

8 Outdoor Pursuits & Spectator Sports

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Salt Lake City is an excellent base for skiing and snowboarding (see chapters 7 and 8), and there are also plenty of opportunities for hiking and other warm-weather activities just outside the city in the 1.3-million acres of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. For maps and detailed trail information, contact the **Wasatch-Cache National Forest,** 125 S. State St. (✆ **801/236-3400;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf). Another good source of information is the nonprofit **Public Lands Information Center** (✆ **801/466-6411**) located in the REI building (see below).

Gart Sports outlets (www.gartsports.com) can meet most of your recreational equipment needs. There are several locations in the Salt Lake City area, including 5550 S. 900 East, Murray (✆ **801/263-3633**), and 10200 S. State St., Sandy (✆ **801/566-7404**). **Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI),** 3285 E. 3300 South (✆ **801/486-2100;** www.rei.com), offers a wide range of sporting goods, both sales and rentals. A good source for sales and rentals of ski and golf equipment, bikes, and in-line skates is **Utah Ski & Golf,** 134 W. 600 South, in downtown Salt Lake City (✆ **801/355-9088;** www.utahskigolf.com), and at several other locations.

BIKING You'll find a number of bikeways along city streets, some separate from but running parallel to the road, some a designated bike lane on the road, and others sharing the road with motor vehicles. From mid-May through September, City Creek Canyon, east of Capitol Hill, is closed to motor vehicles. It's open to hikers and in-line skaters at any time, and bicyclists can use the road on odd-numbered days. For information on the best places to bike, as well as rentals and repairs, stop at **Canyon Sports,** 1844 E. Fort Union Blvd. (✆ **800/736-8754** or 801/942-3100; www.canyonsports.com); or **Guthrie Bicycle,** downtown at 156 E. 200 South (✆ **801/363-3727**), and at 731 E. 2100 South (✆ **801/484-0404**), established in 1888, quite possibly making it the nation's oldest operating bike shop.

BOATING The Great Salt Lake, at the city's front door, has marinas on the south shore and on Antelope Island (see below).

FISHING Trout populate the rivers feeding into the Great Salt Lake, although no fish can live in the lake itself. Popular spots include Big and Little Cottonwood creeks and Mill Creek. Fishing licenses are required; you can get one, along with maps and suggestions, at most sporting-goods stores.

GOLF Salt Lake City has ranked as *Golf Digest*'s number-one golf city in the United States in recent years. There are nine city courses with one central contact for general information and reservations: ✆ **801/485-7730** or 801/484-3333 for the automated tee-time reservation system; and the excellent website, **www.slc-golf.com**. Rates range from $6 to $14 for 9 holes and $22 to $27 for 18 holes, and all courses require reservations. The 18-hole, par-72 **Bonneville,** 954 Connor St. (✆ **801/583-9513**), has hills, a large ravine, and a creek. The 9-hole, par-36 **Forest Dale,** 2375 S. 900 East (✆ **801/483-5420**), is a redesigned historic course with huge trees and challenging water hazards. The 18-hole, par-72 **Glendale,** 1630 W. 2100 South (✆ **801/974-2403**), features fine bent grass greens and splendid mountain views. The **Jordan River** course, 1200 N. Redwood Rd. (✆ **801/533-4527**), is a challenging executive par-3, 9-hole course that meanders along the banks of the Jordan River. There are two 18-hole courses at **Mountain Dell** (✆ **801/582-3812**), in Parley's Canyon east on I-80: the par-71 lake course and the par-72 canyon course, with breathtaking views and a strong likelihood of seeing deer, elk, moose, and other wildlife. The 9-hole, par-34 **Nibley Park,** 2730 S. 700 East (✆ **801/483-5418**), is a good beginner course. The 18-hole, par-72 **Rose Park,** 1386 N. Redwood Rd. (✆ **801/596-5030**), is flat but challenging. The city's top course is the 18-hole, par-72 **Wingpointe,** 3602 W. 100 North, near the airport (✆ **801/575-2345**), a very challenging links-style course designed by Arthur Hills.

JOGGING Memory Grove Park and City Creek Canyon are both great places for walking and jogging. The park is on the east side of the Capitol, and the canyon follows City Creek to the northeast. In town, you can stop at one of the city parks, such as Liberty Park (p. 100).

SPECTATOR SPORTS

The National Basketball Association's **Utah Jazz** (✆ **801/325-2500;** www.utahjazz.com) usually packs the house, so get your tickets early. They play at the Delta Center, 301 W. South Temple. The **Utah Grizzlies** (✆ **801/988-8000;** www.utahgrizzlies.com), of the East Coast Hockey League, play in the E Center, 3200 S. Decker Lake Dr., West Valley City (off I-215 exit 20). **Real Salt Lake** (✆ **801/924-8585;** www.realsaltlake.com), the city's professional soccer team, plays at the University of Utah's Rice-Eccles Stadium, 451 S. 1400 East.

If you want to take in a minor league baseball game, the Pacific Coast League's **Salt Lake Stingers** (✆ **801/325-2273;** www.stingersbaseball.com), a Triple-A affiliate of the Anaheim Angels, play at Franklin Covey Field, at the intersection of 1300 South and West Temple. The **University of Utah's Runnin' Utes** and **Lady Utes** (✆ **801/581-8849;** www.utahutes.com) compete in 10 women's and 9 men's Division I sports. The women's gymnastics team is phenomenal, and men's football and basketball have been growing in stature nationally. Tickets are usually available on fairly short notice, although it's best to call far in advance for football games.

9 Shopping

Salt Lake City, although not as interesting a shopping destination as places like Park City, does offer plenty of opportunities. Many Salt Lake City stores are closed on Sundays (the influence of the LDS Church); typical store hours are Monday through Saturday from 9am to 6pm. Shopping malls (with the exception of the ZCMI Center)

are often open Sunday afternoons from noon to 5 or 6pm, and also stay open a few hours later on weeknights.

The most popular shopping destination in the city is **The Gateway,** 90 S. 400 West (✆ **801/456-0000;** www.shopthegateway.com), which opened in late 2001. The Gateway is a large open-air shopping mall, as well as an entertainment and dining center. It covers 2 city blocks near the Delta Center and features 90 shops (anchored by Barnes & Noble and Dick's Sporting Goods), plus movie theaters, museums and other attractions, and restaurants. The historic Union Pacific Railroad Depot serves as the main entrance.

Mormon Handicraft, 2600 Sunnyside Dr. at This Is the Place Heritage Park (✆ **800/843-1480** or 801/355-2141; www.mormonhandicraft.com), was born during the Depression to encourage home industry and preserve pioneer arts. It carries a large inventory of quilting fabrics and supplies, as well as handmade quilts. It also stocks a wide variety of other crafts, plus religious books and videos.

Another popular shopping spot is **Historic Trolley Square,** 600 South at 700 East (✆ **801/521-9877**), where you'll find modern shops, galleries, and restaurants in an old-fashioned setting. You'll also see two of the city's original trolley cars, a historic water tower, and two of the city's first street lamps.

Before Gateway debuted, the **Temple Square** area had long been the city's top shopping destination, with the twin Downtown Malls (www.thedowntownmalls.com) offering 130 shops right across the street from the square. **Crossroads Plaza,** 50 S. Main St. (✆ **801/531-1799**), and **ZCMI Center Mall**, 36 S. State St. (✆ **801/321-5945),** are now slated for a $1-billion redevelopment that will include shops and 900 residential units.

Although we can't yet call Salt Lake City an arts center, it does have a growing arts community, along with a dozen or so galleries. One of the oldest galleries in Salt Lake City, the **Phillips Gallery,** 444 E. 200 South (✆ **801/364-8284;** www.phillipsgallery.com), represents over 100 artists, most of whom are Utahns, displaying everything from traditional to contemporary paintings, sculptures, and ceramics. **Tivoli Gallery,** 255 S. State St. (✆ **801/521-6288**), carries works by 19th- and 20th-century American and European artists, including Utah artists. The cooperative **Leftbank Gallery,** 242 S. 200 West (✆ **801/539-0343**), shows works by newer and lesser-known artists.

Moments Jordan Commons—An Uncommon Experience

The Jordan Commons complex encompasses 2 city blocks at 9400 South State St., south of downtown Salt Lake City in Sandy. The complex boasts sixteen 35mm movie theaters plus one 70mm large-format super-screen theater—all with digital sound. The theaters surround a food court that has a stupendous variety of edibles: cuisines from Australian to Chinese to Italian to Mexican (see Mayan at Jordan Commons on p. 90), plus a deli, coffee shop, and, of course, popcorn. The theaters are equipped with chairs large enough to accommodate food trays, so you can bring your dinner in with you! Call ✆ **801/304-4577** or check the Web at www.megaplextheatres.com for movie information and tickets.

10 Salt Lake City After Dark

There's always something going on in Salt Lake City, which is working hard to lose its image as a quiet town where the sidewalks get rolled up at night. Check the Friday editions of the *Salt Lake Tribune* or *Deseret Morning News* for listings of upcoming events. For additional entertainment news and listings, pick up one of the city's free papers, including *The Event* and *Salt Lake City Weekly,* which also offers alternative news articles. The Salt Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau (p. 79) also publishes calendars of events.

Among the top entertainment venues in Salt Lake City is the **E Center,** 3200 S. Decker Lake Dr., West Valley City (✆ **801/988-8800** for the box office; www.theecenter.com), an arena-style venue that hosts numerous sports events (see "Spectator Sports," above) plus big-name touring entertainers in its 3,700-seat theater.

THE PERFORMING ARTS

Tickets for performances at a variety of venues can be obtained from **Art-Tix** (✆ **888/451-2787** or 801/355-2787; www.arttix.org).

The highly acclaimed **Utah Symphony & Opera** ★★★ (✆ **801/533-6683;** www.utahsymphonyopera.org) combines one of the country's top symphony orchestras and the well-respected Utah Opera Company. They present four operas a year plus a year-round symphony season at Abravanel Hall, 123 W. South Temple, an elegant 2,800-seat venue known for its excellent acoustics.

The nationally acclaimed **Ballet West** ★★ (✆ **801/323-6900;** www.balletwest.org) performs at the historic Capitol Theatre, 50 W. 200 South. The September-to-March season usually brings four productions, ranging from classical to contemporary. Modern dance is presented by the **Repertory Dance Theatre** (✆ **801/534-1000;** www.rdtutah.org) and the **Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company** (✆ **801/297-4241;** www.ririewoodbury.com), with performances at the historic Capitol Theatre, located at 50 W. 200 South; the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, located at 138 W. 300 South; and other venues.

The **Pioneer Theatre Company,** 300 S. 1400 East, Room 325 (✆ **801/581-6961;** www.ptc.utah.edu), is Utah's resident professional theater. Located on the university campus, its repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary plays and musicals. Recent productions have included *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and *Julius Caesar.* Producing edgier contemporary fare, the **Salt Lake Acting Company,** 168 W. 500 North (✆ **801/363-7522;** www.saltlakeactingcompany.org), stages about six plays by local and national playwrights annually. The **Hale Centre Theatre,** 3333 S. Decker Lake Dr., West Valley City (✆ **801/984-9000;** www.halecentretheatre.org), just down the road from the E Center, features locally produced and performed plays and musical comedies.

THE CLUB & MUSIC SCENE

As Salt Lake City grows, it's shedding its strait-laced image and beginning to hold its own with other Western cities in catering to the party crowd. Some of the following establishments are so-called private clubs, so you'll have to buy a short-term membership (see "Liquor Laws," on p. 44).

One of the city's more with-it and cosmopolitan nightspots is **Mynt Lounge,** 63 W. 100 South (✆ **801/355-6968**), an upscale bar with an extensive martini menu. This place attracts one of Salt Lake City's hippest crowds. Established in 1965, the **Dead Goat Saloon,** 119 S. West Temple, in Arrow Press Square (✆ **801/328-4628;**

www.deadgoat.com), is a fun, funky bar featuring live blues bands. **Squatter's Pub Brewery,** 147 W. Broadway (✆ **801/305-2739**) brews top-notch suds and thumbs its nose at local conservatism with such beer names as Provo Girl and Chasing Tail.

Quite likely Utah's largest sports bar, **Port O' Call Social Club,** 400 S. West Temple (✆ **801/521-0589;** www.portocall.com), boasts 40 TV screens, a game room with pool tables and pinball machines, and a patio. Walls are covered with sports memorabilia. **Murphy's,** 160 S. Main St. (✆ **801/359-7271**), has the reputation as one of the town's booziest bars.

If you're seeing a performance at the Capitol Theatre, stop by **Wine Bar at Baci,** 140 W. Pierpont Ave. (✆ **801/328-1333**), afterward; it's only about a half-block northeast. For one of the best martinis around, stop at **Kristauf's Private Club,** 16 W. Market St. (✆ **801/366-9490**), a favorite of business types and other well-dressed tipplers.

11 The Great Salt Lake & Antelope Island State Park

You wouldn't expect to come across what is essentially a small ocean in the middle of the desert, but there it is: the Great Salt Lake. The lake is all that's left of ancient Lake Bonneville, which once covered most of western Utah and parts of Idaho and Nevada. Unlike its mother lake, the Great Salt Lake has no outlet, so everything that flows into it—some two million tons of minerals annually—stays here until someone or something—usually brine flies, brine shrimp, birds, or humans—removes it. Minerals, including salt, potassium, and magnesium, are mined here; don't be surprised to see front-end loaders moving huge piles of salt to the Morton Salt facility along I-80, on the lake's south shore.

This natural wonder might be worth checking out, but don't expect much. Although Salt Lake City residents enjoy spending weekends at the lake, it isn't really a major tourist destination, and facilities are limited. Boaters should bring their own boats, as no rentals are available. Despite its salinity, this is a relatively flat lake—kind of like a big puddle—so don't pack your surfboard.

ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK

The largest of 10 islands in the Great Salt Lake, measuring about 5 miles wide and 15 miles long, Antelope Island was named by Kit Carson and John Frémont in 1843 for the many pronghorns they found here. Hunting wiped out the herd by the 1870s, but buffalo were introduced in 1893—there are now some 600 of them—and pronghorn have recently been reintroduced. The beaches of Antelope Island don't have the fine-grained sand and shells of an ocean beach; rather, they're a mixture of dirt and gravel. But the water is a great place to relax; because of its high salinity, you don't have to work hard to stay afloat.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE Antelope Island is about 30 miles northwest of Salt Lake City and about 16 miles southwest of Ogden. Take I-15 to exit 332, go 6½ miles west to the park entrance, and cross the 7½-mile causeway to the island.

VISITOR INFORMATION Contact **Antelope Island State Park,** 4528 W. 1700 South, Syracuse, UT 84075-6868. The visitor center (✆ **801/773-2941;** www.stateparks.utah.gov), open daily in summer from 10am to 5pm and in winter daily from 10am to 3pm, has exhibits and information on the Great Salt Lake and the island's wildlife and migratory birds.

FEES & REGULATIONS Day-use fees are $8 per vehicle and $4 for walk-ins, bicyclists, or in-line skaters. The marina offers dock rental overnight. Pets are welcome in the park but must be leashed.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

BIKING, HIKING & HORSEBACK RIDING You'll find more than 30 miles of hiking trails and bike and horse paths on the island, most of which are closed to vehicular traffic. Although generally unmarked, trails follow old ranch roads. Check at the visitor center or talk with a ranger before heading out; they can fill you in on current conditions and tell you where you're most likely to spot wildlife.

The 3-mile **Lake Side Trail** leaves the Bridger Bay Campground and follows the beach around the northwestern tip of the island to the group camping area on White Rock Bay. The walk is magnificent at sunset. Other trails take you away from the crowds, where you might catch a glimpse of buffalo or other wildlife.

BOATING Boaters will find a marina with restrooms, docks, and freshwater for cleaning boats, but little else.

SWIMMING The largest beach is at Bridger Bay, where you'll find picnic tables and restrooms with outdoor showers to wash off the salt.

WILDLIFE WATCHING You can drive to the buffalo corral and see these great shaggy creatures fairly close up. If you head into the less-traveled areas, you might spot pronghorn, deer, buffalo, bobcats, elk, coyote, and bighorn sheep.

The annual bison roundup takes place in late November and early December. You can usually see wranglers herding the bison into corrals on the last weekend of November (binoculars are helpful), and get a close-up view the next weekend as the bison receive their annual checkups. Call to find out exactly when the roundup will take place.

CAMPING

There are two camping areas in the park: **Bridger Bay Campground** offers primitive camping, or you can use the parking area at **Bridger Bay Beach.** Although neither offers hookups, each area does have restrooms with showers; Bridger Bay Beach has picnic tables as well. The cost is $11 per night. Reservations, for a $7 fee, are available at ✆ **800/322-3770.**

MORE TO SEE & DO

Ten miles south of the visitor center, down a paved road, is the **Fielding Garr Ranch House.** The original three-room adobe house, built in 1848, was inhabited until the state acquired it in 1981. In addition to the ranch house, there's a small building that served as a schoolroom by day and sleeping quarters for the farmhands at night, plus a spring house, the only freshwater source.

There's a snack bar at the ranch (open only when the ranch is open), as well as a large, shady picnic area. Half-hour wagon rides are available. Check with the visitor center for current ranch hours as well as schedules and rates for wagon rides.

GREAT SALT LAKE STATE PARK

This is a good spot to launch your boat (assuming you thought to bring one, since there are no rentals), but not what we would call a great destination. A less-than-exciting stretch of muddy/sandy beach greets you, but the expanse of water and distant islands can be lovely, especially at dusk or early in the morning. Prickly pear cactus bloom along the shore of the Great Salt Lake in the late spring. And for those susceptible to

the lure of the sea, this huge inland ocean is mysteriously irresistible any time of year. Sailing and watersports are the main attractions here—although you can also laze on the beach. Facilities include picnic tables, open showers for washing off salt and sand, and restrooms.

Be forewarned, though. The air can be heavy with the stench of rotting algae at times, making even a brief stroll on the beach quite unpleasant. At other times, when the wind is right or the lake is high enough, trekking out to the water's edge is downright enjoyable.

ESSENTIALS

Great Salt Lake State Park is 16 miles west of Salt Lake City. Take I-80 west to exit 104; head east on the frontage road about 2 miles to the park entrance. The marina is open year-round, and the beach is open daily from dawn to dusk, with admission fees of $2 per person or $6 per car. Boat slips and a launching ramp are available, but there are no boat rentals. Contact **Great Salt Lake State Park,** P.O. Box 16658, Salt Lake City, UT 84116-0658 (✆ **801/250-1898;** www.stateparks.utah.gov). Park headquarters are located at the marina.

7

The Northern Wasatch Front: Utah's Old West

In the mountains north of Salt Lake City lies another world. Ogden, which owes its prosperity to the transcontinental railroad, is a good starting point for discovering northern Utah's Old West heritage. Ogden is also a great home base for outdoor recreation: There's skiing at three nearby resorts in the winter, plus hiking and horseback riding in the summer. Mandatory for all railroad buffs is a pilgrimage to Golden Spike National Historic Site, the point at which the East and West coasts of the United States were joined by rail in 1869. North of Ogden is the pretty little town of Logan, which also offers good opportunities to get outdoors.

1 Ogden: Utah's West at Its Wildest

35 miles N of Salt Lake City

In the deltas of the Ogden and Weber rivers, Ogden has always been a city apart from the rest of Utah. Founded by Mormon pioneers and home to a sizable Mormon population, Ogden really began as a popular meeting place for mountain men and fur trappers in the 1820s, and became—much to the chagrin of the church—a seriously rowdy railroad town in the 1870s. It retains some of that devil-may-care attitude today.

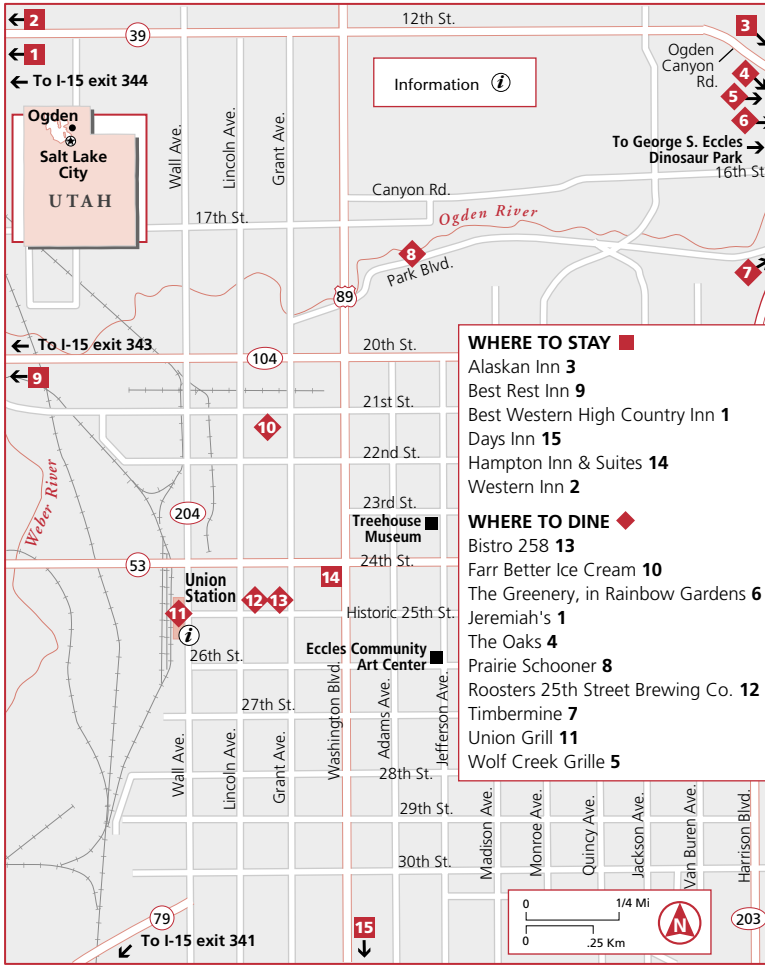
But Ogden's current popularity has little to do with its sinful beginnings. Like other Wasatch Front communities, the bustling city of more than 60,000 has fine little museums and historic sites, as well as good restaurants and hotels. More importantly, at an elevation of 4,300 feet, Ogden is a perfect base for enjoying the surrounding mountains for skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, or boating. Mt. Ben Lomond Peak, which lies to the north of the city, may look familiar—it's said to have inspired the famous Paramount Pictures logo.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE Ogden is easily accessible from the north and south via I-15, and from the east and northwest on I-84. Shuttle service to and from Salt Lake International Airport is about $30 to $40 one-way; try **Xpress Shuttle** (✆ **800/397-0773;** www.xpressshuttleutah.com) or **USS Ogden Express** (✆ **866/746-5438**). For best service, call at least 24 hours in advance.

VISITOR INFORMATION The **Ogden/Weber Convention and Visitor's Bureau** maintains an information center at Union Station, 2501 Wall Ave., Suite 201, Ogden, UT 84401 (✆ **866/867-8824** or 801/627-8288; www.ogdencvb.org). From I-15 north/I-84 west, take exit 341A and head east to Wall Avenue; turn north (left) to the station. The information center is open in summer Monday through Friday 8am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm; the rest of the year Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm.

Where to Stay & Dine in Downtown Ogden



For information on the national forests in the area, contact the **Ogden Ranger District,** Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 507 25th St., Suite 103, Ogden, UT 84401 (✆ **801/625-5112;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf). You can also inquire at the visitor center at Union Station, 2501 Wall Ave. (✆ **801/625-5306**).

GETTING AROUND Driving is the easiest way to explore Ogden. The streets are laid out in typically neat Mormon-pioneer fashion, but with a slightly different nomenclature than, say, Salt Lake City. Those running east to west are numbered from 1st Street in the north to 47th in the south, and north-south streets are named for U.S. presidents and other historical figures. Most people define the city center as the intersection of 25th Street and Washington Boulevard.

For car rentals, try **Avis** (✆ 800/831-2847 or 801/394-5984), **Enterprise** (✆ 800/736-8222 or 801/399-5555), and **Hertz** (✆ 800/654-3131 or 801/614-5005).

The **Utah Transit Authority** (✆ **888/RIDE-UTA** or 801/743-3882; www.rideuta.com) provides bus transport throughout greater Ogden, daily with limited service on Sunday. Exact fares are required; schedules are available at the information center. For 24-hour taxi service, call **Yellow Cab Co.** (✆ **801/394-9411**).

FAST FACTS The **IHC McKay-Dee Hospital Center** is at 4401 Harrison Blvd. (✆ **801/627-2800**). The **main post office** is at 3680 Pacific Ave. (✆ **800/275-8777;** www.usps.com for additional locations and hours). The local **newspaper** is the *Standard Examiner.* **Sales tax** is just over 6%.

WHAT TO SEE & DO

Eccles Community Art Center

Built in 1893, this two-and-a-half-story turreted mansion was the home of David and Bertha Eccles. Throughout her life, Bertha made it known to her family that she wished the house to be used for education and cultural enrichment. It became the home of the Ogden Community Arts Council in 1959.

Changing art exhibits in the Main House feature works by local, regional, and national artists in a variety of media. The Carriage House gallery offers local arts and crafts, such as paintings, pottery, fabric art, and jewelry. The Renaissance Complex offers ongoing educational programs and houses the ticket office for the Ogden Symphony and Ballet West. There are two state-of-the-art dance studios. Outside is a sculpture and flower garden complete with a fountain and benches so you can rest your weary feet and enjoy the view. Allow an hour and a half, and call ahead for a schedule of events and information on classes in the visual arts and dance.

2580 Jefferson Ave. ✆ **801/392-6935.** www.ogden4arts.org. Free admission. Mon–Fri 9am–5pm; Sat 9am–3pm. Closed major holidays. From I-15, take exit 342 and head east on 24th St. to Jefferson Ave.; turn right (south) and go 2 blocks.

Fort Buenaventura ★

With a replica of an 1846 fort and trading post, and exhibits depicting the local mountain men and fur trade of the 1820s, this park shows what life was like back in the day. Built in 1846 by fur trapper and horse trader Miles Goodyear, the fort was the first permanent Anglo settlement in the Great Basin. The Mormons bought the fort when they arrived in 1847, and Ogden grew up around it.

Rangers lead tours of the reconstructed fort (included in the admission fee), and the park has ponds, canoes for rent ($5 per hour), a picnic area, and a pleasant campground ($15 per night). A 2-mile hiking trail meanders around the park, and fishing in the Weber River is permitted with a license. The park also has a kids' fishing pond, open only to children 12 and younger, no license required. The visitor center has exhibits of American Indian artifacts typical of the area. Allow at least 1 hour.

Fort Buenaventura hosts several traditional mountain-man rendezvous each year, with music, Dutch-oven food, and a variety of contests that typically include a tomahawk throw, a canoe race, a shooting competition, and foot races, with all competitors in pre-1840s dress. The rendezvous are usually scheduled on Easter (with a nondenominational sunrise service and egg hunt) and Labor Day weekends. A Pioneer Skills Festival takes place on July 24. Mountain-man supplies are available in a shop at the fort every Saturday.

444 24th St. ✆ **801/399-8099.** www1.co.weber.ut.us/parks/fortb. Admission $3 per person. Apr–Sept daily 8am–8pm; Oct–Mar daily 9am–5pm. From downtown Ogden, take 24th St. west across the railroad tracks.

George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park ★★ Kids

Wander among life-size reproductions of more than 100 prehistoric creatures from the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods in this

5-acre fantasyland playground. The smallest is about the size of a turkey and the enormous tyrannosaurus rex is 30 feet high, 49 feet long, and weighs about 7 tons. There's also a 33-foot-long parasaurdophus (a duck-billed dinosaur), a triceratops with its three horns, and a winged lizard, or pteranodon. There's even a replica of a 65-million-year-old volcano. Don't be alarmed if you hear peculiar sounds emitting from the creatures—the personnel are simply attempting to make your visit as realistic as possible. Also on-site is the Elizabeth Dee Shaw Stewart Museum, with exciting hands-on exhibits of the latest dinosaur finds from Utah and around the world. It includes a sand pit where budding paleontologists can excavate real dinosaur bones. Other activities include gold-panning (fool's gold), hunting for gems in a cave (real gems), and laser shows on weekend afternoons. Allow 2 hours.

1544 E. Park Blvd., Ogden River Pkwy. ✆ **801/393-3466.** www.dinosaurpark.org. Admission $6 adults, $4 children 2–12, free for children under 2, $5 students with IDs and seniors 62 and older. Memorial Day to Labor Day Mon–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun noon–6pm; Apr to Memorial Day and Labor Day to Oct Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm; Nov–Mar Mon–Sat 11am–5pm, Sun noon–5pm. Closed Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. From I-15 exit 344, take 12th St. east 5 miles.

Hill Aerospace Museum ★ Get a close-up view of more than 60 planes, plus missiles and bombs, on your self-guided tour through this museum. The Lindquist–Stewart Fighter Gallery, dedicated on December 7, 1999, houses a number of century series fighters. Aircraft on display include the rare B-17 "Flying Fortress," one of the few P-38s around, the SR-71 "Blackbird" spy plane, a Soviet MIG 21 fighter, and two aircraft that are still flyable: a JN-4 "Jenney" and a Piper L-4J "Grasshopper," painted and marked to look like one that flew in support of the Allied invasion of North Africa in November 1942. You'll also see a World War II chapel, an exhibit of historic Air Force uniforms, a fire truck, a Gatling gun, and a Norden bombsight. Displays illustrate the history of the Air Force, how aircraft fly, and what the Air Force does today. The gift shop offers a wide range of Air Force–related items. Allow 1 hour.

7961 Wardleigh Rd., Hill Air Force Base. ✆ **801/777-6818.** www.hill.af.mil/museum. Free admission; donations welcome. Daily 9am–4:30pm. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. From I-15, take exit 338 to the museum.

Treehouse Children's Museum *Kids* Both kids and grown-ups will find this an entertaining, hands-on learning experience. You can climb into a tree house; create books, bookmarks, cards, or stationery at the Pen and Ink Studio; or step into stories from classic literature such as the tales of King Arthur and Robin Hood. Experiment with a drum or marimba to make your own music in the "Pick Up a Stick and Play" exhibit, or visit a home like those found in China. The "American Dream" exhibit boasts a giant lighted floor map of the United States; a theater with programs on American history; a miniature Oval Office complete with a replica of the President's desk; and Independence Hall, where kids can make an American flag or print out a copy of the Bill of Rights and a "Kids' Bill of Rights." The agricultural history of the U.S. is highlighted in the "American Barn," with a lifelike cow waiting to be milked. In the "Utah Heritage" area, kids explore a pioneer schoolhouse and store, and try their hands at creating American Indian pictographs. Daily events include theater programs and group craft activities based on children's books; call for information. Allow at least 1 hour. ***Note:*** Treehouse Children's Museum plans a move to new quarters between 22nd and 2250 streets on Kiesel Avenue, so call before going.

455 23rd St. ✆ **801/394-9663.** www.treehousemuseum.org. Admission $2 adults, $4 children from walking age to 15. Mon–Thurs and Sat 10am–6pm; Fri 10am–8:30pm. Closed Mon afternoons when school is in session, plus New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Located 1 block east of Washington Blvd. at the corner of 23rd and Adams sts.

Union Station This stately depot faces historic 25th Street, with lovely flowers and a fountain gracing the cobbled courtyard in front. Built in 1924 to replace the original depot, which was destroyed by fire, the station now houses several museums, an art gallery, a gift shop, the Union Grill (p. 125), a Forest Services information center, and the Ogden/Weber Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Plan to spend an hour or two here.

The restored **lobby** is the place to start. The immense room boasts murals at each end commemorating the building of the railroad and the linking of east and west (which you can learn more about on a visit to Golden Spike National Historic Site; see p. 126). Both 12×50-foot murals were done in the late 1970s by Edward Laning, based on murals he painted in 1935 for New York's Ellis Island Immigration Building.

The **Utah State Railroad Museum** displays gas-turbine locomotive designs and has an extensive HO-gauge layout that depicts the construction and geography of the 1,776-mile transcontinental route. Wander around on your own, or let a railroad buff guide you through, describing the whys and wherefores of what you're seeing.

The **Browning Firearms Museum** displays Browning guns from 1878 to present. There's also a replica of an 1880s gun shop and a film describing the Browning legacy.

The **Browning-Kimball Car Collection** features beautiful examples of classic cars, mostly luxury models. You can see about a dozen vehicles from the early 1900s, including a 1901 curved-dash Oldsmobile; Pierce-Arrows from 1909 and 1931; and a 1932 Lincoln. There is also a display of historical license plates and gas pumps.

The **Natural History Museum** displays dinosaur fossils, aquatic life-forms, fossilized wood, and plant matter along with exhibits depicting local geology. Don't miss the rare dinosaur egg or the exhibit on Mars and its similarity to Utah.

The **Gallery at the Station** exhibits a variety of art through invitational and competitive shows.

Outside, the **Eccles Rail Center** pays tribute to the Goliaths of the rails—locomotives designed to pull long trains through the steep mountains of the West. On display are the Big Blow, a gas turbine rated at more than twice the horsepower of typical modern locomotives, and a commemorative car used in the torch relay for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

2501 Wall Ave. ✆ **801/629-8535.** Admission to museums $5 adults, $4 seniors 65 and over, $3 children under 12. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Take exit 341A off I-15 and follow 31st St. east to Wall Ave.; go north 6 blocks.

WALKING TOUR — HISTORIC DOWNTOWN OGDEN—A WALK THROUGH THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST

Start: 2148 Grant Ave.
Finish: 2539 Washington Blvd.
Time: 1–2 hours.
Best Times: Any.
Worst Times: None, although windy days in winter can be biting cold.

Begin your tour at 2148 Grant Ave., on Tabernacle Square, where you'll find:

❶ Miles Goodyear Cabin and Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum

This cottonwood log cabin was built in 1845 on the Weber River at Fort Buenaventura, which is now a county-run park (p. 112). The cabin is believed to be

the first permanent pioneer home in Utah. Next door, the 1902 Gothic-style brick Relief Society Building now houses the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum (✆ **801/393-4460**), containing pioneer photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia. Both the museum and cabin are open during summer only.

Now head south on Grant Avenue for 3 blocks to 298 24th St., the:

❷ Ogden Post Office

This is one of two fine examples of Classical Revival Federal architecture in Utah (the other is the Salt Lake City post office). This building, constructed between 1905 and 1909, held a post office, a courthouse, and offices until 1974. The lobby, elevator, second-floor courtroom, and much of the beautiful woodwork have been lovingly restored. The building now houses a reception center and other offices.

Turn east on 24th Street; a block down the street, at 385 24th St., you'll reach the:

❸ Eccles Building

Now the Hampton Inn & Suites, this steel-framed, brick-faced, boxlike 1913 building with "Chicago-style" windows combines elements of Prairie style with classical details, evident in the terra-cotta figurines and geometric motifs along the second- and eighth-floor cornices.

Turn south onto Washington Boulevard, and continue to 2415 Washington Blvd. to see:

❹ Peery's Egyptian Theater

Built as a movie theater in the Egyptian Revival style in 1924, the cinema reopened in 1997 after extensive renovation. The facade has four fluted columns, with two sculpted Pharaohs between each, plus two sculptures of deities perched on the roof. The interior is equally exotic: The proscenium is decorated with paintings of Egyptian figures and colorful columns. The theater doesn't show movies regularly, but hosts live productions and film festivals.

Cross the street to 2510 Washington Blvd., the:

❺ Former Bigelow Hotel

This Italian Renaissance Revival hotel, built in 1927 on the remains of the 1890 Reed Hotel, is a handsome reminder of the opulent 1920s, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cross again to 2539 Washington Blvd., to see the:

❻ Municipal Building

One of the finest representations of the Art Deco style of architecture in Utah, this building is also an excellent example of a WPA project. Built in 1939, the building is composed of a series of rectangular brick blocks with glazed terra-cotta trim, symmetrically tapered to the tall central mass—grand and awe-inspiring.

❼ Historic 25th Street

Finally, take a few minutes to walk along Historic 25th Street, once known nationwide as "Two-Bit Street" because of its rowdy nature. The largest remaining group of turn-of-the-20th-century storefronts in the state has enjoyed a dandy of a renovation over the last decade. Many of the old businesses moved out to suburban shopping centers, and shops, restaurants, and pubs moved in.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

HUNTSVILLE: "THE SIN & SALVATION TOUR"

Locals jokingly refer to visiting Huntsville as taking "The Sin and Salvation Tour." The town is about 15 miles east of Ogden on Utah 39; it'll take you 20 to 25 minutes to get there, but it's well worth the drive.

First, stop at the **Shooting Star Saloon** ★★, 7350 E. 200 South (✆ **801/745-2002**), for a draft beer and one of the best—and sloppiest—hamburgers in the state. Established in 1879, this is said to be the oldest continuously operating saloon in Utah. The decor is eclectic, to say the least—dollar bills are pinned to the ceiling;

the walls are decorated with animal-head trophies, steer skulls, a stuffed St. Bernard's head, and cowboy art; and there's a handsome oak back bar built in 1895. A pool table and a jukebox round out the fun. The Shooting Star is open Wednesday through Saturday from noon and Sunday from 2pm; it usually closes around midnight, give or take an hour. Operating under Utah's liquor laws as a tavern, the Shooting Star serves beer only, and no one under 21, even with parents, is permitted in the saloon.

Now that you've done a bit of sinning, head to the **Abbey of Our Lady of the Holy Trinity Trappist Monastery,** 1250 S. 9500 East (✆ **801/745-3784;** www.xmission.com/~hta), for a bit of saving. To get here, take Utah 39, turn southeast (right) at the Huntsville American Legion Hall, and follow the signs. This community of about two dozen monks established themselves here in 1947 to live "an austere and simple life of prayer and manual labor." They farm; raise Herefords; and sell books, freshly made peanut butter, preserves, and their renowned honey. The reception room and chapel are open to the public, and visitors are welcome to attend any of the scheduled services. Call for the current schedule.

A HISTORIC FAMILY-FUN CENTER IN FARMINGTON

Lagoon, 375 N. Lagoon Dr., Farmington (✆ **800/748-5246** or 801/451-8000; www.lagoonpark.com), is a delightful combination of amusement park, water park, and historical park. Swimming was the original attraction; then, in 1906, an early version of a roller coaster opened. Next came a carousel of 45 hand-carved animals (still in operation today). Now there are more than 125 rides, including The Bat, new in 2005, a suspended coaster that twists and turns while its riders' legs dangle—not for the faint of heart! There's also a **Midway** with games, shops, food courts, and more.

Lagoon's Pioneer Village represents Utah past, with one of America's finest collections of horse-drawn carriages, plus a gun collection and exhibits of pioneer and American Indian artifacts. You can also browse through 19th-century shops and ride a stagecoach or train.

If it's water you want, visit the **Lagoon A Beach,** with a 65-foot twisting, turning, enclosed tube ride, three serpentine slides, and white-water rapids that you shoot in a river tube. For the less intrepid, there's a lazy river with crystal-clear waterfalls, exotic tunnels, steamy hot tubs, and sultry lagoons.

Moments Escape to a Wildlife Sanctuary

For a delightful escape from civilization, visit the **Ogden Nature Center,** 966 W. 12th St. (✆ **801/621-7595;** www.ogdennaturecenter.org), a 152-acre wildlife sanctuary and rehabilitation center where injured birds are treated and released back into the wild. There are trails (including one fully accessible trail) for warm-weather strolling or, when snow blankets the ground, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Watch for golden eagles, prairie falcons, goshawks, red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, and long-eared owls. A Learning and Visitors Center houses hawks, ravens, and other birds, plus a variety of exhibits and a gift shop. The center sponsors naturalist-led educational programs; call for a schedule. Admission is $3 for ages 12 through 64; $1.25 for children 3 through 11 and seniors over 64; and free for those 2 and under. Hours are Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 4pm. To get here from I-15, take exit 344 and head east on 12th Street. Allow at least 2 hours.

Admission costs $33 for adults and children 51 inches and taller, $28 for children 4 and older but under 51 inches tall, $18 for toddlers 3 and under, and $21 for seniors 65 and over. There is a parking fee of $7 for cars and pickups, and $10 for oversize vehicles and vehicles with trailers. The park is open daily, usually from 10 or 11am, between Memorial Day and Labor Day; and weekends from mid-April to May and the month of September; hours vary so call for the current schedule. The park is closed in winter, but opens for a special Halloween event for 3 or 4 weeks in October. To get here, from I-15 northbound, take exit 322; southbound, take exit 325.

Lagoon has an RV park and campground with more than 200 shady sites, both pull-through with hookups and grassy tent sites. The campground has a ministore, and campers receive Lagoon admission discounts. Rates range from $22 for tent and no-hookup RV sites up to $31 for pull-through RV sites with full hookups.

SPORTS & OUTDOOR PURSUITS

The nearby Wasatch-Cache National Forest offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation (see "Visitor Information," on p. 110). For camping and other equipment and supplies, stop by **Gart Sports SuperStore,** in the Newgate Mall, 36th Street and Wall Avenue (✆ **801/392-5500**).

BIKING The **Ogden River Parkway** ★★ is a 3.1-mile paved, wheelchair-accessible path along the Ogden River, extending from the mouth of Ogden Canyon west to Washington Boulevard. It's excellent for walking, jogging, and bicycling; it also leads to Big D Sports Park (with playground and sporting fields), Lorin Farr Park (p. 119), and George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park (p. 112).

There are two strenuous road rides east of Ogden. The **Trappers Loop Road** winds 9 miles along Utah 167 from Mountain Green (exit 92 off I-84) north to Huntsville. This route alternates between wide-open meadows backed by high mountain peaks and tall evergreens and aspens that seem to envelop you.

The second ride, along **Snowbasin Road,** climbs more than 2,000 feet from Pineview Reservoir. Your efforts will be rewarded with stunning views of the ski runs and towering peaks. Now open in summer, **Snowbasin** (✆ **888/437-5488;** www.snowbasin.com) is a mountain-biking destination, with 25 miles of trails that gain nearly 3,000 feet in elevation. Rentals are available on-site.

You can get additional trail information at the Forest Service visitor center in Union Station (p. 114)—ask for the Ogden Trails Network brochure. For bicycle repairs and accessories, stop at **Bingham Cyclery,** 3259 Washington Blvd. (✆ **801/399-4981;** www.binghamcyclery.com). In Eden, **Diamond Peaks,** at the junction of Utah highways 158 and 162 (✆ **801/745-0101;** www.peakstuff.com), offers rentals, repairs, and sales of bikes, boards, and skis.

CLIMBING A wide variety of indoor climbing challenges, with some 4,000 square feet of climbing surface, can be found at **Ben Lomond Climbing Center,** 2370 N. U.S. 89 (✆ **801/737-7274;** www.geocities.com/blclimbingcenter). The center is open Monday through Friday from 2 until 10pm, Saturday from noon until 10pm, and Sunday from noon until 6pm. Day passes cost $8 for adults and $6 for youths 15 and younger. Family rates are also available.

FISHING Brown, rainbow, cutthroat, brook, and lake trout thrive in the waters of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest around Ogden. You might also find perch, bass, catfish, whitefish, and crappie. Popular spots to wet your line are Pineview Reservoir,

Causey Reservoir, and the Ogden and Weber rivers. For supplies and tips on where they're biting, stop at **Anglers' Den,** 5296 S. Freeway Park Dr. (✆ **801/773-1166**).

GOLF Golfers will find an abundance of opportunities in the Ogden area, which boasts challenging courses with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Public courses include **Wolf Creek Golf Resort,** 3900 N. Wolf Creek Dr., Eden (✆ **801/745-3365**), a challenging 18-hole championship par-73 course that overlooks Pineview Reservoir in Ogden Valley, which has greens fees of $65 to $75. There's also the **Mount Ogden Golf Course,** 1787 Constitution Way (✆ **801/629-0699**), an 18-hole, par-71 championship course located on the east side of the city against the mountains, which charges $33 for 18 holes; and **El Monte Golf Course,** 1300 Valley Dr. (✆ **801/629-0694**), a scenic 9-hole, par-35 course of rolling hills and old-style greens in Ogden Canyon, with fees of $11 for 9 holes, and an extra $5.50 for a cart.

The **Golf City Family Fun Center,** 1400 E. 5600 South (✆ **801/479-3410**), in south Ogden, offers something for everyone. There's a driving range (lighted at night), a baseball and softball batting cage, miniature golf, and a 9-hole, par-27 course ($6.50).

For one of the finest practice areas around, try **Mulligan's Golf and Games,** 1690 W. 400 North, exit 346 off I-15 (✆ **801/392-4653**), which features a 9-hole, par-31 course that costs $7.50 for 9 holes. It also has two 18-hole miniature golf courses and a driving range that's lit at night.

HIKING The **Ogden River Parkway** ★★ (p. 117) is great for walking. Several hiking trails are accessible from the east side of downtown Ogden. **Indian Trail** takes off from the parking area at 22nd Street and Buchanan Avenue and the narrow path winds about 4.2 miles through thick stands of oak, spruce, and fir trees. The trail offers some of the finest views of the canyon from above—particularly of the waterfall at the mouth of Ogden Canyon—before dropping down to the parking area on Utah 39. This moderately difficult trail takes about 4 hours one-way.

A little over a half-mile along Indian Trail, **Hidden Valley Trail** cuts off sharply to the south. The route is difficult, climbing steadily through the old Lake Bonneville terraces, and is surrounded by dense stands of oak, maple, and aspen. After 2 miles, you'll reach a turnaround; from here, enjoy a clear view of the rugged face of Mt. Ogden to the southeast. The hike takes about 2 hours one-way.

An easy 1½-hour hike is the **Mt. Ogden Exercise Trail,** linking the parking lots at 29th and 36th streets. It's mostly flat and surfaced with bark chips. The trail follows the east edge of a golf course much of the way, encountering splashing streams and even occasional wildlife. The views are inspiring at sunrise and sunset.

For additional trail information, ask for the Ogden Trails Network brochure at the visitor information center in Union Station (p. 114). It describes a number of hiking trails, some of which are also open for biking and horseback riding.

HORSEBACK RIDING For custom guided trail rides, contact **Red Rock Ranch and Outfitters,** 13555 E. Utah 39 and Causey Way, Huntsville (✆ **801/745-4305** or 801/745-6393; www.redrockranchandoutfitters.com). A 30-minute children's ride costs $20; rates for adults and older children are $30 for the first hour, $20 for the hour, and $10 for each hour after that. Ask at the forest information center in Union Station (p. 114) for information on other area outfitters as well as for forest and trail maps.

ICE SKATING & CURLING The **Ice Sheet,** 4390 Harrison Blvd., in the southeast part of the city (✆ **801/399-8750**), offers year-round ice skating, a learn-to-skate program, hockey and figure-skating clinics, clinics on curling (one of the newest Olympics sports), and skate rentals. Call for current rates and schedules.

WATERSPORTS Willard Bay State Park and Pineview Reservoir (below) are your destinations for boating, water-skiing, and swimming. Also check out Lagoon (p. 116) and Lorin Farr Park (below).

WINTER SPORTS Deep snow turns the mountains surrounding Ogden into a winter playground, with four delightful family-oriented ski resorts (see section 3 of this chapter) and seemingly unlimited forest trails for cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers. **Red Rock Ranch and Outfitters** (p. 118) offers snowmobile rentals for about $120 to $130 per day.

An exciting way to ski some of the best snow in the West is to get away from the groomed trails, lift lines, and parking lots and take to the skies with **Diamond Peak Heli-ski Adventures** (✆ **801/745-4631;** www.diamondpeaks.com), based in Ogden. Helicopters fly you to the tops of several privately owned mountains, where you'll find no developed trails, just pure snow. One drop plus a full-day lift ticket at Powder Mountain Resort (see section 3, "Skiing Ogden Valley & the Northern Wasatch Front," later in this chapter) costs $150; a six-run heli-ski tour, with lunch, costs $595.

PARKS & RECREATION AREAS

For boating and water-skiing, head 10 miles north to **Willard Bay State Park,** 900 W. 650 North #A, Willard, UT 84340 (✆ **435/734-9494;** www.stateparks.utah.gov). In addition to watersports, 9,900-acre Willard Reservoir offers birding and wildlife viewing. There are two marinas, restrooms with showers, 131 campsites (some with RV hookups), and an RV dump station. A trail leads to a wide sandy beach for swimming and sunbathing. There are some open waterfront campsites, but most are along a meandering access road among the cottonwoods and willows that are abundant along Willard Creek. The day-use fee is $9 per vehicle; camping costs $14 to $20. Take I-15 exit 351 to South Marina, or exit 357 for North Marina.

In the Ogden Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest (✆ **801/625-5112;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf), **Pineview Reservoir** is 6 miles east of Ogden via Utah 39. Surrounded by towering mountains and forested hillsides, the 2,874-acre reservoir is a popular watersports destination. Created by the construction of an earth-and-rock dam in 1937, it has two boat ramps and two designated swimming areas. Anglers catch smallmouth and largemouth bass, black bullhead catfish, crappie, bluegill, yellow perch, and tiger muskie. The **North Arm Wildlife Viewing Trail,** accessible from Utah 162 where the North Fork of the Ogden River enters the reservoir, is an easy .7-mile round-trip walk through a riparian wetland, where you're likely to see northern orioles, yellow warblers, and white-crowned sparrows, plus ducks, geese, hawks, and mule deer. The best viewing times are spring and early summer.

The Forest Service's **Anderson Cove Campground,** at 5,000 feet elevation along the south edge of the reservoir, has paved roads and 68 sites, and costs $16 per night. It's usually open from May through September or October, and has vault toilets and drinking water. For reservations contact the National Recreation Reservation Service (✆ **877/444-6777;** www.reserveusa.com).

If you need to cool off, head to **Lorin Farr Park,** 700 Canyon Rd., Ogden River Parkway (✆ **801/629-8253,** or 801/629-8691 for pool). Facilities include water slides, a swimming pool, a playground, a skateboard park, and a picnic area with grills. The park is open year-round, but the pool is open in summer only. Admission to the park is free, but there are charges for swimming (call for current rates and schedules).

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Weber State University, southeast of downtown, belongs to the Big Sky Athletic Conference and the Mountain West Athletic Conference. Football games kick off at **Stewart Stadium** at the south end of campus, while basketball and women's volleyball take place at **Dee Events Center,** 4400 Harrison Blvd. (✆ **801/626-8500**). Contact the school's athletic department (✆ **801/626-6500**) for schedules.

Ogden also has a minor league baseball team. A short season "A" team affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers, the **Raptors** play from mid-June to early September at **Lindquist Field,** 2330 Lincoln Ave. (✆ **801/393-2400;** www.ogden-raptors.com).

SHOPPING

At one time a bawdy collection of saloons, rooming houses, brothels, and opium dens, Ogden's 25th Street has become the "in" place to shop and eat. Among its historic buildings, you'll find several antiques shops, specialty stores, restaurants, and bars. Among our favorite stops here are the **Pan Handler,** 260 25th St. (✆ **801/392-6510**), where you'll find all sorts of kitchenware. Needlepointers should make a point of visiting the **Needlepoint Joint,** 241 25th St. (✆ **801/394-4355**). Also worth a look are **Gallery 25**, 268 Historic 25th St. (✆ **801/334-988**), a co-operative gallery featuring the work of local artists; **Umé**, 186 Historic 25th St. (✆ **801/393-7326**), a hip boutique for women; and **Ruby & Begonia**, an eclectic art and home decor center, 204 Historic 25th St. (✆ **801/334-7829**).

At the mouth of Ogden Canyon is **Rainbow Gardens,** 1851 Valley Dr. (✆ **801/621-1606**); dubbing itself as Utah's largest gift shop, it has everything from flowers and Olympic souvenirs to a restaurant and a trail head out back.

Those searching for specialty shops or their favorite stores will enjoy **Newgate Mall,** 36th Street and Wall Avenue (✆ **801/621-1161;** www.newgatemall.com), with its boutiques, department stores, abundant eateries, and 14-screen movie theater. Mall tenants include Dillard's, Mervyn's, Sears, Gart Sports, Gap, Victoria's Secret, Bath & Body Works, Eddie Bauer, Spencer Gifts, Radio Shack, and Foot Locker. The mall is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 9pm and Sunday from 11am to 7pm.

WHERE TO STAY

In addition to the choices below, the Ogden area is home to several affordable motels. **Western Inn,** 1155 S. 1700 West, Ogden, UT 84401 (✆ **801/731-6500**), and **Days Inn,** 3306 Washington Blvd., Ogden, UT 84403 (✆ **800/329-7466** or 801/399-5671), charge between $60 and $90 for two people. **Best Rest Inn,** 1206 W. 21st St., Ogden, UT 84401 (✆ **801/393-8644**), usually has doubles for under $50.

Room tax totals about 9%. Pets are not allowed unless otherwise noted.

Alaskan Inn ★★ Discover the wilds of Alaska in this enchanting bed-and-breakfast, where the unique rooms and cabins whisk you to a land of tundra, snow-capped peaks, tall pines, polar bears, and cascading waterfalls. Stay in the handsome 12-room log lodge or one of the 11 cabins. All units also have whirlpool tubs for two; cabins contain free-standing showers as well, and one has a kitchenette. In the popular Northern Lights room, you can enjoy a light show of the Aurora Borealis while lounging in bed or soaking in the tub. Or perhaps you'd prefer the Bears' Den, with a cozy cavelike atmosphere and a waterfall. Cabins are more simply furnished, but continue the Alaska theme; you can dwell in a trapper's cabin or listen to the call of the bull moose along the Kenai River.

Located some 15 minutes from downtown Ogden, the inn is nestled among tall pines along the Ogden River, with easy access to hiking trails in the national forest.

Full breakfasts are served in your room or cabin. Free tours of the inn are offered daily from 1 to 3pm. Smoking is not permitted.

435 Ogden Canyon Rd., Ogden, UT 84401. ✆ **888/707-8600** or 801/621-8600. Fax 801/394-4054. www.alaskaninn.com. 23 units. Sun–Thurs $125–$180 double; Fri, Sat, and holidays $140–$195 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. Not suitable for children under 18. *In room:* A/C, TV, kitchenette (in one), fridge, coffeemaker.

Best Western High Country Inn ★ Recently given a $3-million renovation, the inn offers comfortable, attractive rooms with a bright, airy feel and modern mission-style decor. Guests have a choice of one or two queen-size beds or one king-size. Amenities include wireless Internet access, ski lockers and ski tuning, and the very popular Jeremiah's restaurant (p. 123).

1335 W. 12th St., Ogden, UT 84404. ✆ **800/594-8979** or 801/394-9474. Fax 801/392-6589. 109 units, including 1 suite. $55–$79 double; $100 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Just off I-15 exit 344. Pets accepted with a deposit. **Amenities:** Restaurant (American); outdoor heated pool; exercise room; indoor Jacuzzi; coin-op washers and dryers. *In-room:* A/C, TV, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Hampton Inn & Suites ★★ This eight-story Art Deco–style structure, built in 1913, was renovated in 2002 for the Olympics. More like a boutique hotel than a chain, its standard rooms are well-appointed, with top-quality furnishings and a comfortably refined atmosphere. The junior one-room "suites" are much more spacious, with upgraded amenities and sleeper sofas; and the 12 two-room executive suites are top of the line, with just about every amenity you can imagine. The hotel has secure covered parking, valet service, same-day dry cleaning, and meeting rooms.

2401 Washington Blvd., Ogden, UT 84405. ✆ **801/394-9400.** Fax 801/394-9500. www.ogdensuites.hamptoninn.com. 124 units. $79–$109 double; $129–$159 junior and full suite; lower weekend rates. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Fitness center; business center; coin-op laundry; laundry service; same-day dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, coffeemaker, iron.

IN HUNTSVILLE

Atomic Chalet ★ *Finds* Growing up in the shadow of a nuclear power plant near San Diego gave Wes Welch the inspiration for his inn's name, but his experience as a pro-volleyball player in the European Alps inspired its style and service. The Atomic Chalet, which opened in 2000 and housed the U.S. Ski Team during the 2002 Winter Olympics, is a two-story, cedar-clad lodge with a pool table in the parlor and a hip sensibility throughout. The four rooms have one king-size or queen-size bed, plus a ladder up to a loft with one or two twins. The soft color scheme accents unfinished pine furnishings, marble-laden bathrooms, and nice mountain views. Another perk: Welch is known for throwing impromptu parties during ski season.

6917 E. 100 South, Huntsville, UT 84317. ✆ **801/745-0538.** www.atomicchalet.com. 4 units. $105–$150 double. Rates include continental breakfast and après-ski specialties. MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor Jacuzzi. *In room:* TV/VCR, fridge, no phone.

Jackson Fork Inn ★★ A delightful alternative to standard hotels, this unique little inn was formerly an old family barn, believed to have been constructed in the 1930s. It's now in its third location. Each unit has a spiral staircase leading to an upstairs bedroom loft. All accommodations are bright and cheery, and three rooms include whirlpool tubs. The charming Jackson Fork Inn restaurant (p. 125) serves dinner and Sunday brunch. A "Jackson fork," incidentally, is a type of pitchfork used to load hay into the loft of a barn. Smoking is not permitted.

7345 E. 900 South (Utah Hwy. 39), Huntsville, UT 84317. ✆ **800/255-0672** or 801/745-0051. www.jacksonforkinn.com. 7 units. Mon–Thurs $70–$120 double; Fri–Sun and holidays $80–$135 double. Rates include breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC,

V. Pets accepted for an additional fee. **Amenities:** Restaurant (continental); limited room service. *In room:* A/C, TV/VCR, no phone.

IN EDEN

Moose Hollow Luxury Condominiums ★★ Situated on 2,600 acres, Moose Hollow is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts, large families, or several families traveling together. The complex consists of 14 buildings containing 12 condo units each, plus eight buildings containing six town houses each—all with exteriors of stone, peeled log, and cedar siding. Each unit is individually decorated, with slate floor entryways and lots of wood furniture, such as knotty pine armoires. All units have gas fireplaces and vaulted lofts. Each town house includes a two-car garage. The landscape is rife with aspen, maple, birch, and pine trees; waterfalls and streams; and an abundance of shrubbery and wildflowers. The owners also run **Red Moose Lodge,** 2547 N. Valley Junction Dr. in Eden (✆ **801/745-6667;** www.redmooselodge.com), a grand lodge with a "New West" sensibility and rates from $75 to $175 a night.

3665 W. Huntsman Path, Eden, UT 84310. ✆ **866/996-6673** or 801/745-9653. Fax 801/745-0224. www.moosehollowcondos.com. 216 2–4 bedroom units. Winter $225–$375; summer $200–$350; spring and fall $150–$250; rates considerably higher during Christmas holiday season. AE, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor pool; oversize Jacuzzi; sauna. *In room:* A/C, cable TV/VCR, kitchen, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Snowberry Inn Bed & Breakfast ★★ The Snowberry, built in 1992, is a large, comfortable log cabin–style inn within 15 minutes of three ski areas and convenient to outdoor activities in the surrounding national forest. Each room is accented with antiques and collectibles related to its theme (Canyons, Wasatch Winter, Pioneer, and so on). The Pioneer room is wheelchair accessible, and the Sundance Suite is the best family option. Each room has its own bathroom, some with shower only; the Monte Cristo has a claw-foot tub but no shower. Amenities include a game room with pool table, foosball, and darts; and babysitting can be arranged. The inn has an open, friendly atmosphere; guests are welcome to gather around the kitchen counter for coffee while the morning meal is being prepared. Smoking is not permitted inside.

1315 N. Utah Hwy. 158 (P.O. Box 795), Eden, UT 84310. ✆ **888/334-3466** or 801/745-2634. Fax 801/745-3140. www.snowberryinn.com. 8 units. $85–$119 double. Rates include breakfast. MC, V. From Ogden, follow Utah 39 east about 8 miles and turn north on Utah 158; the inn is about 2½ miles up on the west side of the road. Pets accepted with prior approval. **Amenities:** Outdoor Jacuzzi; game room; in-room massage; babysitting can be arranged. *In room:* No phone.

CAMPING

In addition to the following options, the national forest offers camping in the Pineview Recreation Area, discussed earlier in the chapter in "Parks & Recreation Areas," which also covers camping at Willard Bay State Park. There is additional camping at Fort Buenaventura (p. 112) and at Lagoon (p. 116).

Moments Farr Better Ice Cream

Choose from over 50 flavors of ice cream and a wide range of malts, shakes, sundaes, frozen yogurt, sherbets, and homemade fudge at **Farr Better Ice Cream—Utah's Original Ice Cream Shoppe,** 286 21st St. (✆ **801/393-8629,** ext. 20), in business since 1929. Cones start at $1.70. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 9am to 10pm (until 11pm in summer).

Century RV & Mobile Home Park This campground, conveniently near the interstate and downtown Ogden, has shade trees, grass, and pull-through and back-in gravel sites. There's also a large tent camping area, a bathhouse with hot showers, a dump station, a convenience store, a coin-operated laundry, a playground, a game room, and a heated outdoor pool and hot tub. Cable TV hookups are available.

1399 W. 2100 South (1 block west of I-15 exit 340), Ogden, UT 84401. ✆ **801/731-3800.** Fax 801/731-0010. 166 sites. $20–$27. AE, DISC, MC, V.

Cherry Hill Camping Resort ★ This immaculately maintained campground is part of a large complex containing a water park, miniature golf course, and batting cages. You'll find manicured lawns, shade trees, and paved interior roads, along with a heated pool, recreation hall, and game room. The campground offers complete RV hookups, a dump station, a convenience store, and loads of sites for tent camping. Services are limited from November to March.

1325 S. Main St. (2 blocks south of I-15 exit 328), Kaysville, UT 84037. ✆ **888/446-2267** for reservations, or 801/451-5379. Fax 801/451-2267. www.cherry-hill.com. 182 sites. Apr–Oct $26–$32; lower Nov–Mar. MC, V.

WHERE TO DINE

Bistro 258 AMERICAN/EUROPEAN This casual, airy restaurant is in one of the oldest buildings in this part of Ogden, built in 1888 and restored in 1984. There's a narrow dining room and a magnificent old wooden bar complete with mirrors behind the glassware, a large atrium dining room, and a flower- and shrub-filled outdoor patio for warm-weather dining. Chef-owners Michael Attento and Todd Ferrario blend American and European cuisines on their changing menu, with choices such as New York steak with Gorgonzola and balsamic vinegar and Parmesan-battered halibut with Cajun sauce. There's a children's menu and full liquor service.

258 Historic 25th St. ✆ **801/394-1595.** Main courses lunch $4–$12; main courses dinner $8–$23. AE, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11am–11pm.

The Greenery AMERICAN A local lunch favorite, this pleasant eatery has a green-and-white color scheme, checkerboard floors, nice canyon views, and—of course—plenty of greenery inside and out. The menu (while the same for lunch and dinner) is diverse, and the food is good. We recommend the fresh-baked Mormon Muffin, made from a pioneer recipe and served with Utah honey butter. Other house specialties include Chinese chicken salad, the "Fowl Play" sandwich (with turkey, avocado, and melted mozzarella), and caramel apple pie. Bottled beer is available.

In Rainbow Gardens, 1851 Valley Dr. ✆ **801/621-1606.** Main courses $6–$12. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–9:30pm; Fri–Sat 11am–10pm; Sun 11am–9pm. From downtown, take Washington Blvd. north to 12th St. and head west to the mouth of Ogden Canyon.

Jeremiah's ★ *Finds* AMERICAN For some of the best burgers in northern Utah, as well as a wide variety of basic American dishes and great breakfasts, head to Jeremiah's. A local favorite—due in part to its large portions and reasonable prices—the restaurant has consistently been voted "Best Breakfast in Northern Utah" in *Salt Lake City Weekly*'s readers poll. In addition to about a dozen styles of burgers—including a buffalo burger and a meatless burger—you'll find sirloin steak, smoked pork chops, salads and sandwiches, and several chicken dishes. The extensive breakfast menu includes about a dozen omelets, various meat and egg options, and pancakes. There is a break-of-dawn breakfast special between 6 and 9am. The huge, popular scones and cinnamon rolls are served all day. Full liquor service is available.

Best Western High Country Inn, 1307 W. 1200 South. ✆ **801/394-3273.** Main courses $4–$14. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 6am–10pm; Sun 7am–9pm.

The Oaks ★★ AMERICAN This restaurant's delightful location—tucked among the pines in Ogden Canyon, with patio dining over the bubbling and crashing Ogden River—just can't be beat. The Oaks moved to its present spot in 1933, when it evolved into a hamburger and hot dog takeout joint. In 1981, Keith and Belinda Rounkles turned it into a full-service sit-down eatery and ice-cream parlor. Today, the family-friendly, home-style eatery has a rugged Western decor, accented by historic photos, maps, and postcards. Food is good, solid, American fare, made mostly from scratch. Breakfast, served until noon, features the usuals, along with huevos rancheros and some exotic omelets. The lunch and dinner menus bring a variety of burgers and sandwiches, including the house specialty: sliced sirloin smothered with mushrooms, onions, and green peppers and topped with mozzarella and American cheese, served on a French bun. Dinner specials, such as charbroiled steak, halibut, or salmon, are also available, and there's a pasta of the day at both lunch and dinner. Utah microbrews and other beers are served with meals.

750 Ogden Canyon (Utah Hwy. 39). ✆ **801/394-2421.** Main courses breakfast $5–$9, lunch $3.50–$7, dinner $15–$19. AE, DISC, MC, V. Memorial Day to Labor Day daily 8am–10pm; rest of year daily 8am–9pm. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Prairie Schooner *Kids* STEAK On the south side of the Ogden River, the Prairie Schooner is so named because every dining table is modeled after a prairie schooner—a covered wagon for you Eastern folk. The Western theme doesn't end there; the dining room features life-size campfire dioramas, a stuffed wolf, and a facade modeled after Old West storefronts. But what's kept the place in business for 30 years are the steaks, including a monster 32-ounce porterhouse and a 22-ounce T-bone, as well as those of the chicken-fried, ground, and shish-kabob varieties. There is also a full selection of seafood and surf-and-turf combos, and a smattering of chicken. Lunch is sandwiches and a few items from the grill. Full liquor service is available.

445 Park Blvd. ✆ **801/392-2712.** www.prairieschoonerrestaurant.com. Lunch $5.50–$14; dinner $11–$33. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11am–2pm; Sun–Fri 5–9pm; Sat 4–10pm. From downtown, drive north on Washington Blvd. and turn right (east) just after the arch at Park Blvd.

Roosters 25th Street Brewing Co. ★ AMERICAN This two-story, red-brick brewpub, with its prominently displayed brewing vats and intriguing metal and wood tables, is popular for both its eclectic menu and its beers. Pizzas come in several varieties, including a vegetarian option with mushrooms, peppers, asparagus, spinach, and sun-dried tomatoes. The beer-battered fish and chips is light and crisp. For an appetizer, try the crunchy Onion Loops, onion slices fried in a homemade beer batter. Fish dishes, pasta, a smattering of Mexican fare, and some excellent specialty sandwiches are also available. Request the patio seating if the weather is nice. As you might expect, freshly brewed beer is served, and full liquor service is available.

253 Historic 25th St. ✆ **801/627-6171.** www.roostersbrewingco.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses $9–$22; sandwiches and salads $6–$10. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11am–11pm; Sun 10am–9pm.

Timbermine ★ *Kids* STEAK/SEAFOOD Utah's mining days are the theme here—the rough-timbered rooms resemble mine shafts, and collectibles and antiques from the mining era are scattered about. Arrive early for our choice—the prime rib—which often sells out. The menu also offers a variety of steaks, fish, and seafood; barbecue is

featured on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights. For dessert, try the Timber pie, a chocolate-chip-cookie concoction topped with vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce. Full liquor service is available.

1701 Park Blvd. ✆ **801/393-2155.** www.timberminerestaurant.com. Reservations accepted for parties of 8 or more. Main courses $14–$33. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 5–10pm; Fri–Sat 5–11pm; Sun 5–9pm. Follow 12th St. (which becomes Canyon Rd.) east to the mouth of Ogden Canyon, turn right on Valley Dr., and then right again onto Park Blvd.

Union Grill ★★ AMERICAN/ECLECTIC Set in historic Union Station, the Union Grill has a lively decor of Art Deco–style stained glass and bright colors, with a contemporary touch of industrial chic. Take a peek outside: The windows look out on a view of trains rumbling by. The menu includes fresh fish, pasta, homemade soups, salads, and sandwiches, along with daily specials. Spicy Cajun dishes are especially tasty, as is the fresh flame-broiled salmon. The desserts, especially the caramel bread pudding, are hard to resist. Full liquor service is available.

Union Station, 2501 Wall Ave. ✆ **801/621-2830.** www.uniongrillogden.com. Main courses $4.95–$18. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11am–10:30pm.

Wolf Creek Grille ★ AMERICAN This upscale golf club restaurant is a good place to stop for lunch and dinner whether you're a golfer or not. The dining room, with a tall cathedral ceiling, offers spectacular views of the surrounding mountains, a sparkling lake, and the golf course's rolling greens. The dinner menu turns out innovative American favorites, such as baby back ribs with chipotle barbecue sauce, slow baked and then finished on the grill; and oven-roasted chicken breast with braised vegetables and a Gruyère cheese crust. There are also pizzas, burgers, pastas, and salads. Full liquor service is available; the wine list is one of the Ogden area's best.

Wolf Creek Golf Resort, 3900 N. Wolf Creek Dr. ✆ **801/745-3737.** www.wolfmountaineden.com. Main courses $6.25–$19. AE, DISC, MC, V. Memorial Day to Labor Day daily 11:30am–10pm; rest of year daily 5–9pm. Follow Utah 39 east from Ogden about 10 miles, turn north onto Utah 158 for about 4 miles, and turn north on Powder Mountain Rd. to Wolf Creek Golf Resort.

IN HUNTSVILLE

Jackson Fork Inn CONTINENTAL A charming country atmosphere pervades this inn, housed in a converted barn (p. 121). The menu includes excellent filet mignon and slow-roasted prime rib; chicken teriyaki; seafood selections such as salmon, halibut, shrimp, and calamari; and a changing vegetarian entree. Sunday brunch features some of the best blueberry pancakes in the West. Wine and beer are available.

7345 E. 900 South (Utah Hwy. 39), Huntsville. ✆ **801/745-0051.** www.jacksonforkinn.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $9.50–$27. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 5–9:30pm; Sun brunch 10am–2pm, dinner 3–8pm.

OGDEN AFTER DARK

All summer long, Monday through Saturday, the outdoor **Ogden Amphitheater,** 343 25th St. (✆ **801/393-3866;** www.ocae.org), hosts free events, including movies, community theater, open-mic nights, and concerts. Nearby, **Peery's Egyptian Theater,** 2415 Washington Blvd. (✆ **801/395-3200;** www.peerysegyptiantheater.com), has less frequent events, but is worth seeing even if nothing's happening onstage. During the school year, Weber State University's Department of Performing Arts (✆ **801/626-6800**) presents live entertainment at **Dee Events Center,** 4400 Harrison Blvd. (✆ **801/626-8500**); call for a schedule.

For classical offerings, contact the **Ogden Symphony and Ballet,** 638 E. 26th St. (✆ **801/399-9214;** www.symphonyballet.org), which presents a variety of performances,

ranging from solo violin recitals and pops concerts to ballets such as *The Nutcracker,* at various venues.

The **Utah Musical Theatre** (✆ **801/626-7775**) offers three Broadway musicals each summer at Peery's Egyptian Theater (p. 125). Recent productions have included *Kiss Me Kate* and *Wicked City Blues.*

The **Golden Spike Events Center,** 1000 N. 1200 West (✆ **800/442-7362** or 801/399-8798), has surround seating for more than 6,000 people and hosts concerts, rodeos, horse races, monster truck rallies, circuses, auctions, and other special events. Call for current events. If you're lucky, you might get to see a chariot race—remember Ben Hur?—or a monster truck rally.

For after-hours entertainment, the **City Club,** 264 25th St. (✆ **801/392-4447**), offers good eats and walls plastered with Beatles memorabilia, while **Beatniks,** 240 25th St. (✆ **801/395-2859**), features jazz and blues. You can catch live comedy at **Wiseguys,** 269 25th St. (✆ **801/622-5588**), with shows on Friday and Saturday nights. **Time Out Sports Deli,** 4396 Harrison Blvd. (✆ **801/392-5565**), is a Weber State hangout, good for a rendezvous or watching the game on TV.

2 Where East Met West: Golden Spike National Historic Site

50 miles NW of Ogden, 90 miles NW of Salt Lake City

If you love steam trains, as we do, you won't want to miss **Golden Spike National Historic Site** ★★. On May 10, 1869, the Central Pacific met the Union Pacific at Promontory Summit, and America's East and West coasts were finally joined by rail. The nation's second transcontinental telegraph had been strung along the track as it was laid, and as the final spike was driven home, the signal "Done" raced across the country—and jubilation erupted from coast to coast. A ragged town of tents quickly sprang up along the track at Promontory Summit, but within 8 months the railroads moved their terminal operations to Ogden. In 1904, the Lucin Cutoff bypassed Promontory altogether, and in 1942 the rails were torn up for use in military depots.

Today there are less than 2 miles of track here, re-laid on the original roadbed, where you can see fully functional replicas of the two engines, the Central Pacific's "Jupiter" and Union Pacific's "119," that met here in 1869. From mid- to late spring into early October, the magnificent machines are on display and make short runs (inquire at the visitor center for a schedule). Presentations are given track-side.

ESSENTIALS

Admission for up to a week costs $7 per vehicle from May through mid-September and $5 per vehicle the rest of the year. There are no camping facilities. Outside attractions are open daily during daylight hours.

GETTING THERE From Ogden, head north on I-15 to exit 365, turn west on Utah 83 for 29 miles to a sign for Golden Spike, turn south, and go 7½ miles.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER Contact **Golden Spike National Historic Site,** P.O. Box 897, Brigham City, UT 84302-0897 (✆ **435/471-2209;** www.nps.gov/gosp). The park's visitor center is open daily year-round from 9am to 5pm and closed Mondays and Tuesdays from November through May, as well as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Restrooms, picnic areas, and a bookstore are located at the visitor center, which also offers slide programs, films, and museum exhibits detailing the linking of the nation. Ranger programs take place daily; check at the visitor center for the current schedule.

SPECIAL EVENTS The park has several special events throughout the year, with free admission. On May 10, there's a reenactment of the original **Golden Spike Ceremony,** with food, souvenirs, and handicrafts. Reenactments are also held on Saturdays and holidays from May into October. On the second Saturday in August, the **Annual Railroader's Festival** features reenactments of the Golden Spike ceremony, a spike-driving contest, and handcar races and rides. Hot food, crafts booths, and live music add to the festivities. Although not free (regular entrance fees apply), the **Annual Railroader's Film Festival and Winter Steam Demonstration,** held during the Christmas season, is a lot of fun, with classic Hollywood railroad films and a special appearance by one of the two resident steam locomotives.

EXPLORING THE HISTORIC SITE

BY CAR

Die-hard railroad buffs can drive the self-guided **Promontory Trail Auto Tour** along 7 miles of the historic railroad grades. A booklet explaining the markers along the tour is available at the visitor center. You'll see the two parallel grades laid by the competing companies (see box below), clearings for sidings, original rock culverts, and many cuts and fills. Allow about 1¼ hours.

ON FOOT

The **Big Fill Trail** is a 1.5-mile loop along part of the original rail beds to the Big Trestle site and the Big Fill. The Big Fill was created when some 250 dump-cart teams and more than 500 workers—mostly Chinese immigrants—dumped load after load of rock and dirt into a ravine to create the 170-foot-deep, 500-foot span of fill required to lay the Central Pacific's track. The Union Pacific built their trestle just 150 feet away. It was never intended to be a permanent structure; speed was the goal, rather than strength. Constructed by hand by Irish and Mormon crews in 1869, the last spike went into the 85-foot-high, 400-foot-long trestle on May 5, just 36 days after it was begun.

You can hike on either the Central Pacific or Union Pacific rail bed, although the Central Pacific rail bed is an easier walk. Markers along both grades point out cuts and fills, quarries, vistas, and caves.

Fun Fact **The Great Train Race**

A transcontinental railroad had been a dream for Americans since railroads first appeared in the 1830s. By the time the Civil War began there were numerous rail lines in the East, but few in the West, and none that linked the coasts. Finally the government selected two companies to receive loans and land for each mile of track laid. One company would start in Nebraska and head west, while the other would start in California and head east.

With trains carrying supplies following the workers as they laid down track, the race became ridiculous—opposing crews actually passed each other, furiously building parallel road beds, in sight of each other, in opposite directions! An end to this silliness finally came when Congress named Promontory, Utah as the meeting spot. Four symbolic spikes (two golden, one silver, and one gold-plated silver) were driven in with a silver-plated hammer to mark the occasion, and the country was finally united by rail.

This is the desert, so bring water, wear a hat, and be prepared for mosquitoes and ticks. Remember that rattlesnakes, though rare on the trail, have the right of way. And be glad that you weren't one of the workers in that backbreaking effort of 1869.

3 Skiing Ogden Valley & the Northern Wasatch Front

You'll find splendid powder skiing, low prices, few lift lines, and friendly people in abundance at the relatively undeveloped ski areas of northern Utah. Don't expect fancy lodges (at least not yet), but do be prepared for breathtaking scenery, a wide variety of fine terrain, and a relaxed family atmosphere.

THE OGDEN VALLEY RESORTS

These resorts are just northwest of Ogden; to reach any of them, take I-15 exit 344 onto 12th Street and follow Utah 39 east. **Wolf Mountain** and **Powder Mountain** are just off Utah 158, and **Snowbasin** is off Utah 226.

WOLF MOUNTAIN SKIING & TUBING

Family-oriented **Wolf Mountain Ski Area,** 3567 Nordic Valley Way, Eden, UT 84310 (✆ **801/745-3511;** www.wolfmountaineden.com), formerly called Nordic Valley Ski Area, has been purchased by Wolf Creek Resort (see "Golf," in the Ogden section, earlier in this chapter). Utah's smallest and least expensive ski area, it has among the best night-lighting systems in the state. Refreshingly informal and casual, Wolf Mountain has been a favorite of Ogden-area families because it's a good place to learn to ski, with enough variety to keep everyone satisfied. The terrain is rated 30% beginner, 50% intermediate, and 20% advanced. Annual snowfall averages 300 inches. Several runs have been designed specifically for snowboarders.

Wolf Mountain has two double chairlifts serving 18 runs on 85 acres, and snowmaking on 50 acres. The vertical drop is 1,200 feet from the top elevation of 6,400 feet. The ski area is generally open mid-December to early April, with lifts operating Monday through Saturday from 9:30am to 10pm and Sunday from 9:30am to 5pm.

To get here from I-15, follow Utah 39 east about 11 miles, turn north (left) onto Utah 158 for about 3 miles, then turn west (left), following signs to the ski area.

LIFT TICKETS Day passes (9am–5pm) for adults and children 6 and older cost $20. Night skiing (3–9pm) costs $15 for adults and children 6 and older.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **ski school** offers private and group lessons; call for rates and information. The ski shop has equipment for rent and accessories for sale. No child-care facilities are available.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE There's no overnight lodging on the mountain; see "Where to Stay," in the Ogden section earlier in this chapter, for nearby accommodations. The lodge serves hot sandwiches, homemade soups, pizza, and hot and cold beverages. You can relax around the fireplace on a cold day or outside on the deck when it's sunny and warm.

POWDER MOUNTAIN RESORT

This is a family ski area in two respects: It was founded in 1972 by the Cobabe family, who still own and run it, and it's aimed at providing a variety of skiing opportunities to suit everyone in your family. Among the 5,500 skiable acres—the most of any resort in the country—there are plenty of beginner runs, which seem to grade upwards in difficulty as you move from the Sundown area to the Timberline area and then the

Hidden Lake area; so by the time you're skiing Three Miles, you can consider yourself an intermediate and try cruising over the big, swooping blue fields. There's no dearth of expert and powder skiing in the wilds, either. Powder Mountain uses snow cats and shuttle buses to transport skiers to more than 2,500 acres of spectacular powder that are not served by its lifts—it's an out-of-bounds, backcountry skier's dream come true. A bonus is the view: On a clear day, you can see across the Great Salt Lake and sometimes all the way to Park City.

Powder Mountain is also a favorite among snowboarders; boarding is allowed everywhere.

Powder Mountain Resort, P.O. Box 450, Eden, UT 84310 (✆ **801/745-3772,** or 801/745-3771 for snow conditions; www.powdermountain.com), has one quad, one triple and two double chairs, two surface lifts, and one platter lift, servicing 2,800 acres of packed runs and powder skiing, plus nearly that much in backcountry acreage. The terrain is rated 10% beginner, 50% intermediate, and 40% advanced. With over 500 inches of snowfall annually, Powder Mountain doesn't have—or need—any snowmaking. The elevation at the summit is 8,900 feet; the vertical drop is 2,000 feet. The season is generally mid-November to mid-April, with day skiing from 9:30am to 4:30pm and night skiing until 10pm.

From I-15, follow Utah 39 east about 11 miles, turn north (left) onto Utah 158, and drive about 8 miles to the ski area.

LIFT TICKETS An all-day lift ticket is $45, a half-day ticket is $38, a children's (ages 6–12) all-day ticket is $27, and a children's half-day ticket is $23; night-skiing passes are $18 for adults and $13 for children. Seniors 65 and over pay $37. Kids 5 and under ride the lift free. Each snow cat ride costs backcountry skiers an extra $7.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **ski school** offers a full range of ski and snowboarding lessons and other activities, both group and private, from half-day to multiday. These include children's lessons, a program designed especially for and taught by women, and guided Alpine tours. Private lessons start at $59; group lessons cost $45 per person. Powder Mountain Lodge and Sundown Lodge both have ski shops where skis and snowboards are available for rent and accessories are for sale. No child-care facilities are available.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE Most skiers stay in Ogden (see "Where to Stay," in the Ogden section earlier in this chapter), but for those who want to sleep slope-side, the **Columbine Inn** (✆ **801/745-3772**), has five rooms and two suites with a pleasant ski-chalet atmosphere. Room are located next to the lodge off the main parking lot, and plans for expansion are underway. Doubles cost $75 to $110, with suites going for $150 to $295. Room tax is 9.25%. Smoking is not permitted.

At the **Powder Mountain Lodge,** a restaurant serves homemade soups and sandwiches, and the **Powder Keg** serves sandwiches and draft beer around a cozy fireplace. **Hidden Lake Lodge** serves lunch at the summit.

SNOWBASIN ★★

Among America's oldest ski areas (it opened in 1939), Snowbasin remained a local secret until it hosted the downhill and Super G competition at the 2002 Olympics. Word of the area's great terrain got out, and skiers have been flocking to the resort ever since. Particularly popular for its top-to-bottom intermediate runs, Snowbasin offers plenty of untracked powder; long, well-groomed trails; and Utah's third-largest vertical drop. Beginners have plenty of terrain on which to develop their ski-legs, and some

great transitional runs off the Wildcat lift will help them graduate from novice to intermediate status. With its wide-open powder bowls and new Olympic downhill courses, expert skiing at Snowbasin has been growing by leaps and bounds.

Snowbasin Resort, P.O. Box 460, Huntsville, UT 84317 (✆ **801/620-1000,** or 801/620-1100 for snow conditions; fax 801/620-1314; www.snowbasin.com), has 64 runs, rated 10% beginner, 45% intermediate, and 45% advanced. Included in its 2,650 acres are beautiful powder bowls and glade skiing. Snowbasin has one high-speed quad, one double, and four triple chairlifts, plus two high-speed eight-passenger gondolas and a tram that serves the starting point for the downhill racecourses. Lift-served vertical drop is 2,950 feet from the 9,350-foot summit. All lifts are open to snowboarders, with retaining devices required. With about 400 inches of annual snowfall, Snowbasin has not really needed snow-making equipment, although snow-making has been added to assure an early season opening. The ski season generally runs from Thanksgiving to mid-April, with lifts operating daily from 9am to 4pm. The resort is also now open in summer, when it transforms into a hiking, biking, and horseback-riding mecca.

To reach Snowbasin from Salt Lake City, take I-15 to exit 324, then go north on U.S. 89 for about 10 miles. At the mouth of Weber Canyon, merge onto I-84 eastbound, which you take several miles to exit 92 for Mountain Green. Head east about 2 miles and turn north (left) onto Utah 167 (Trapper's Loop). Go about 5 miles to Utah 226, where you turn left and drive 3 miles to the resort.

LIFT TICKETS All-day adult lift tickets cost $58, half-day tickets are $48, a children's (ages 7–12) all-day ticket is $35, a children's half-day ticket is $29, and seniors over 65 pay $48 for a full day and $34 for a half-day. Kids 6 and under can ride the lift free.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **ski school** (✆ **801/620-1016**) offers both private and group skiing and snowboarding lessons for all ages and abilities, with rates starting at $40 for a 2-hour group lesson and $135 for a 2-hour private lesson (or $359 for an all-day private lesson). Children's lessons are also available. The Grizzly Center at the base offers ski and snowboard equipment rental and repair, plus clothing and accessories for sale. No child-care facilities are available.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE No lodging is available at the ski area itself; most skiers stay near Ogden (see "Where to Stay," in the Ogden section earlier in this chapter). In preparation for the Olympics, Snowbasin built three handsome restaurants—one at the base and two on the mountain. All serve American fare in a mountain lodge atmosphere; we prefer the on-mountain restaurants for their wondrous views.

NORTHERN WASATCH FRONT (NEAR THE IDAHO BORDER)

BEAVER MOUNTAIN SKI AREA ★

Skiing at **Beaver Mountain Ski Area** is like going home to see the folks. Located at the top of beautiful Logan Canyon in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, this small resort has been operated by the Seeholzer family since 1939. The emphasis is on friendliness, personal attention, and, as Ted Seeholzer puts it, "helping skiers find the right runs for them." You'll find plenty of snow, a good mix of terrain, well-maintained slopes, and a northeast exposure that makes morning runs a warm, sunny experience. Snowboarders are welcome. Both bump skiers and snowboarders like the steep Lue's Run (named for Ted's mother, Luella), while hot-doggers are directed to Harry's Hollow (named for Ted's father), which has plenty of bumps—and is located right under a lift so everyone can see you showing off.

Beaver Mountain Ski Area, 1351 E. 700 North (P.O. Box 3455), Logan, UT 84321 (✆ **435/753-0921,** or 435/753-4822 for ski reports; fax 435/753-0975; www.skithebeav.com), receives an average of 400 inches of snow annually and has a top elevation of 8,800 feet and a vertical drop of 1,600 feet. Three double chairlifts and a triple chairlift service 664 total skiable acres. The terrain is mostly intermediate and there are 22 runs. The season runs from early December through March, with the lifts operating daily from 9am to 4pm. The mountain is closed on Christmas Day.

Take I-15 to exit 362, then go east on U.S. 89 about 50 miles through Logan and Logan Canyon, and take the turnoff to the ski area.

LIFT TICKETS All-day adult lift tickets cost $33; cost for children 11 and under and seniors 65 to 69 is $27; and for those 70 and over it's $16.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **ski school** offers group and private lessons. Private lessons start at $40 per hour; group lessons are also available. In the lodge, you'll find ski rentals, lockers, and a small shop that sells clothing and accessories. No childcare facilities are available.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE Most lodging and restaurants can be found 27 miles west in Logan (see section 4 of this chapter). A cafeteria at the day lodge sells hamburgers, sandwiches, and soft drinks.

Nearby places to stay include **Beaver Creek Lodge,** P.O. 139, Millville, UT 84326 (✆ **800/946-4485** or 435/946-3400; fax 435/946-3620; www.beavercreeklodge.com), a half-mile east of the ski area along U.S. 89. Open year-round, this 11-room log lodge offers all the modern conveniences, in a spectacular mountain setting surrounded by the national forest. Spacious guest rooms contain log furnishings, handmade bed quilts, TVs and VCRs, and whirlpool tubs with showers. A large common room offers a stone fireplace and big-screen TV with VCR, and the decks offer panoramic views. There's hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling on the property and in the surrounding national forest (see "Sports & Outdoor Pursuits," in section 4 of this chapter). Rates are $109 to $129 in winter and $79 to $89 in summer, with Friday- and Saturday-night rates the highest; breakfast and dinner are available at an additional charge. Room tax is 9%. No smoking is permitted.

A small **RV park** (✆ **435/563-5677**) with 15 sites for RVs and tents is open at Beaver Mountain Ski Area in summer, with showers and lots of trees. RV sites with hookups cost $17; tent sites go for $10. A large tent and a yurt are available from April through November (call for details).

4 Logan

46 miles N of Ogden, 81 miles NE of Salt Lake City

Nestled in the fertile Cache Valley, at an elevation of 4,525 feet, Logan is flanked by the rugged Wasatch and Bear River mountains. Once part of prehistoric Lake Bonneville, then home to the Blackfoot, Paiute, Shoshone, and Ute Indians, the valley is now a rich farming area known for its cheeses and high-tech businesses. Mountain men arrived in the 1820s to trap beaver in the Logan River, caching (hence the valley's and county's name) the pelts in holes they dug throughout the area. Then, in 1856, Mormon pioneers established several villages in the valley.

With a population of about 49,000, Logan is a small city, but with many of the attractions of its larger neighbors to the west. Particularly worthwhile are visits to the LDS Church's Tabernacle and Temple, both handsome 19th-century structures; and a

drive out to the American West Heritage Center for a trip through 100 years of Western history: 1820 to 1920. Thanks in part to Utah State University, Logan suffers from no lack of art exhibits, live music, or theater.

But nobody who comes to Logan really wants to spend much time indoors. Beautiful Logan Canyon and the nearby mountains are a delightful escape for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, anglers, and rock climbers.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE From Salt Lake City and Ogden, take I-15 north to exit 362, then follow U.S. 89/91 northeast about 24 miles to downtown Logan. Those flying to Salt Lake City can arrange transportation with the **Cache Valley Limo's Airport Shuttle** (✆ **800/658-8526** or 435/563-6400). Two-days notice is recommended; round-trip fares are $82, one-way is $46.

VISITOR INFORMATION The Cache Valley Tourist Council's **Visitor Information Center** is located at 160 N. Main St., Logan, UT 84321 (✆ **800/882-4433** or 435/752-2161; fax 435/753-5825; www.tourcachevalley.com). It's open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.

GETTING AROUND As with most Utah cities, Logan is laid out on a grid, with the center at the intersection of Main (north to south) and Center (east to west). Tabernacle Square is the block to the northeast of the intersection. U.S. 89/91 enters town on a diagonal from the southwest, along the golf course at the south end of town. Utah State University is located on the northeast side of town, north of U.S. 89 between 700 and 1400 East.

The **Logan Transit District Transportation System,** or LTD (✆ **435/752-2877;** www.ltdbus.org), is a **free** citywide bus service. Buses run Monday through Friday 6:30am to 9:30pm and Saturday 9:30am to 6:30pm, except major holidays. A route map is available at the visitor center on Main Street (described in the previous section). For a cab, call **Logan Taxi** (✆ **435/753-3663**).

Car-rental agencies in Logan include **Enterprise,** 2026 N. Main (✆ **800/325-8007** or 435/755-6111), and **Hertz,** 447 N. Main (✆ **800/654-3131** or 435/752-9141).

FAST FACTS The **Logan Regional Hospital,** 1400 N. 500 East (✆ **435/716-1000**), has a 24-hour emergency room. The **main post office** is at 75 W. 200 North (✆ **800/275-8777;** www.usps.com).

WHAT TO SEE & DO

Although not open to the public, you can still view the outside of the handsome **LDS Temple,** 175 N. 300 East (✆ **435/752-3611**). The temple was completed in 1884, and its octagonal towers give the four-story limestone structure the appearance of a medieval castle. On a slight rise, it can be seen from just about anywhere in the valley.

American West Heritage Center

This living history museum, covering 160 acres, tells the story of the Old West from 1820 to 1920. It includes the **Jensen Historical Farm,** an authentic 1917 farm where visitors can learn about farming in the early 20th century; and the **Pioneer Era Area** (1845–70), which describes homesteading and life in a dugout or log cabin. There are also depictions of life in American Indian villages and the military. Allow 2 hours. The **Festival of the American West** (special fees; see below), held in late July or early August, features arts and crafts demonstrations, American Indian villages, military encampments, Western art exhibits, Western music and food, and a pageant that tells the story of the founding of the American West.

4025 South U.S. 89/91 (6 miles south of Logan), Wellsville. ✆ **800/225-3378** or 435/245-6050. www.americanwestcenter.org. Admission $6 adults, $4 children under 12, $5 students with ID and seniors 55 and older, $25 family (parents and up to 4 dependent children under 21); Festival admission $15 adults, $10 children under 12, $12 students with ID and seniors 55 and older, $50 family (parents and up to 4 dependent children under 21). Memorial Day to Labor Day Mon–Sat 10am–5pm. Welcome Center Memorial Day to Labor Day Mon–Fri 8am–5pm; rest of year Mon–Fri 10am–4pm. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Cache Museum—Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Housed in the same building as the information center, this small museum displays pioneer artifacts from 1859 to 1899—basically the first 40 years of Mormon settlement in the area. You can see guns, musical instruments (including the first organ used in the LDS Tabernacle), handmade pioneer furniture, clothing, and kitchenware. On exhibit are several pieces of furniture made by Brigham Young for his daughter Luna Young Thatcher, who lived in Logan. Allow 30 minutes.

160 N. Main St. ✆ **435/752-5139.** Free admission. June to Labor Day Tues–Fri 10am–4pm; by appointment rest of year.

LDS Tabernacle The Tabernacle was built from locally quarried stone in a style that's an amalgam of Greek, Roman, Gothic, and Byzantine. The main stone, quartzite, is from Green Canyon, 8 miles northeast of Logan; the white limestone used for the corners and trimmings came from Idaho. Construction started in 1864 and took 27 years to complete. The main hall and balcony can accommodate about 1,800 people, and the pipe organ is a work of art. The pillars are made of wood that has been expertly painted to simulate marble, a technique widely used throughout pioneer Utah. Allow 30 minutes. There's also an extensive genealogical library, open to the public.

100 N. Main St. ✆ **435/755-5555.** Free admission. June–Aug daily 9am–5pm.

Utah State University Founded in 1888, Utah State University (USU) is situated on a beach that was once the shore of the great Lake Bonneville. Established through the Federal Land Grant Program as the Agricultural College of Utah, USU has about 20,000 students and an international reputation for research and teaching.

Old Main was the first USU building, and is the oldest building in continuous use on any Utah college campus. At various times, it has housed nearly every office and department of the school. Its tall bell tower is a campus landmark.

The **Museum of Anthropology,** Room 252, Old Main (✆ **435/797-7545**), has exhibits on the early inhabitants of the Great Basin as well as on the peoples of Polynesia and other areas around the world. It's open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm (from 9am in summer); admission is free. Allow 45 minutes.

The **Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art,** 650 N. 1100 East (✆ **435/797-0163**), displays a fine collection of ceramics and offers changing multimedia exhibits. It's open Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 4:30pm (Wednesday until 7pm), Saturday noon to 4pm. Allow 1 hour. Admission is free. Pick up an **Art Walk** guide at the museum, which will direct you on a tour of the outdoor art on campus.

And the **Nutrition & Food Science Building,** 750 N. 200 East (✆ **435/797-2109**), sells locally famous ice cream in a wide variety of flavors.

102 Old Main. ✆ **435/797-1000.** www.usu.edu. The 400-acre campus lies north of U.S. 89 and mostly east of 800 East. To get to the campus, drive north on I-15 and take exit 362. Drive east through Brigham City and the Canyon. The highway turns into Main St. Turn right on 500 North. When you get to the hill, turn left up the slope. Parking is just past the traffic light on the right.

Willow Park Zoo *Kids* This small but intriguing zoo is home to a variety of animals, from lemurs to elk to bobcats, including one of the best collections of birds in

the region, with more than 100 species (including wild avians who nest here). Children are invited to feed the ducks, geese, and trout. The attractive grounds have a lovely, grassy play and picnic area shaded by tall trees. Allow 1½ hours.

419 W. 700 South. ✆ **435/750-9893.** Admission 50¢ per person. Daily 9am–dusk. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. From Main St., head west on 600 South for 3 blocks, turn south (left) onto 300 West for 1 block, then west (right) onto 700 South.

SPORTS & OUTDOOR PURSUITS

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest, which covers almost 2 million acres of northern Utah, offers many opportunities for outdoor recreation. For maps and other information, contact the **Logan Ranger District** office, 1500 E. U.S. 89, Logan, UT 84321-4373 (✆ **435/755-3620;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf). For outdoor equipment and supplies, as well as knowledgeable staff to help you find the best spot for your activity, stop by **Gart Sports,** 1050 N. Main (✆ **435/752-4287**), or **Al's Sporting Goods,** 1617 N. Main (✆ **435/752-5151**).

You'll find excellent watersports, fishing, and wildlife viewing at **Bear Lake State Park** (✆ **435/946-3343;** www.stateparks.utah.gov), along the Utah-Idaho border about 40 miles northeast of Logan via U.S. 89. The state's second-largest freshwater lake (20 miles long and 8 miles wide), Bear Lake is known for the azure blue of its water, caused by the suspension of calcium carbonate (limestone) particles in the lake. Facilities include boat ramps and rentals, a marina, picnic areas, campgrounds, and a 4.2-mile paved walking and biking trail. Deer are often seen in the park, and birdwatchers may spot ducks, geese, white pelicans, herons, and sandhill cranes, among other species. Anglers catch lake trout and huge cutthroat trout; there's also an alleged Loch Ness–style monster, 90 feet long and dating back to local tribal legend. Elevation is 5,900 feet. The day-use fee is $7 per vehicle; camping costs $8 to $20.

BIKING Cache Valley's patchwork of farms and villages offer excellent road biking through the countryside on well-maintained roads, and mountain bikers have plenty of opportunities in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. For tips on the best biking spots, contact the visitor center or the ranger district office (above). Each June the Utah Multiple Sclerosis Society (✆ **800/527-8116** or 801/493-0113; www.fightmsutah.org) sponsors the **MS 150 Bike Tour,** in which more than 1,500 participants pedal about 100 miles each day along Cache Valley's back roads. Funds support the battle against multiple sclerosis.

BIRDING Northern Utah has great birding, especially from spring through early fall in the area's wetlands. Two particularly good spots are along the Bear River west of Logan, and Cutler Marsh. These spots offer opportunities to see great blue herons, snowy egrets, white pelicans, western grebes, and a variety of other wetlands species.

FISHING Logan River and Bear River offer wonderful fly-fishing, and streams throughout the area are popular for rainbow, albino, cutthroat, and brook trout. Bear Lake (above) offers great lake fishing (including ice-fishing in winter) for trophy cutthroat and lake trout. For tips on where they're biting, stop at **Spring Creek Outfitters,** 42 S. Main St. (✆ **435/755-6800;** www.springcreek-outfitters.com), a full-service fly shop and guide service.

HIKING There are numerous hiking possibilities in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest east of Logan, and Logan Canyon in particular offers spectacular scenery. Among the easy hikes is the **Spring Hollow Trail,** about 6.5 miles up Logan Canyon, which

leads a half-mile to one of the area's most photographed rivers. Stop at the visitor center or the forest service office (p. 132) for a free brochure and other information.

HORSEBACK RIDING The **Beaver Creek Lodge,** in Logan Canyon (✆ **800/946-4485** or 435/946-3400; www.beavercreeklodge.com), is about 25 miles northeast of Logan on U.S. 89 just east of Beaver Mountain Ski Resort (see "Skiing Ogden Valley & the Northern Wasatch Front," earlier in this chapter). One- to four-hour guided rides are available for beginner through expert levels, costing from $22 to $75. Trails include a wide range of terrain, from mountaintops to rolling hills covered with aspens, pine trees, and wildflowers. The challenging rides to the top of a mountain reward you with panoramic views of the forest. Reservations are recommended. See p. 131 for more information on Beaver Creek Lodge.

ROCK CLIMBING The sheer rock walls of Logan Canyon make this one of the most challenging climbing areas in the West. There's an abundance of vertical and overhanging limestone and quartzite faces, and more than 275 routes have been developed—most are bolt-protected sport climbs. For information and climbing site recommendations, stop at **The Trailhead,** 117 N. Main St. (✆ **435/753-1541**), which sells and rents climbing equipment, among other gear.

SNOWMOBILING & OTHER WINTER FUN Snowmobiling opportunities can be found throughout the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Rentals are available at **Beaver Creek Lodge** (p. 131), which offers access to more than 300 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Full-day rental rates are $139 to $169. Another popular activity is taking a sleigh ride at the **Hardware Ranch Elk Refuge** (✆ **435/753-6206;** www.hardwareranch.com), about 20 miles southeast of Logan. Information on snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing can be obtained from the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's **Logan Ranger District Office** (p. 134). Downhill skiing is at **Beaver Mountain Ski Area** (p. 130).

SPECTATOR SPORTS

A member of the Big West Athletic Conference, **Utah State University** competes in all major sports, winning conference championships in football, men's basketball, and women's outdoor track in recent years. Contact the school's ticket office (✆ **888/878-2831** or 435/797-0305; www.usu.edu) for information.

WHERE TO STAY

Among the reliable chains in Logan that usually charge under $100 for two people are **Best Western Baugh Motel,** 153 S. Main St. (✆ **800/462-4154** or 435/752-5220), and **Best Western Weston Inn,** 250 N. Main St. (✆ **800/532-5055** or 435/752-5700). In the $55-to-$75 range are **Days Inn,** 364 S. Main St. (✆ **800/329-7466** or 435/753-5623), **Comfort Inn,** 447 N. Main St. (✆ **800/424-6423** or 435/752-9141), and **Super 8,** 865 U.S. 89/91 (✆ **800/800-8000** or 435/753-8883). All addresses are Logan, UT 84321.

Rates are highest in summer, and lowest usually during the first 3 or 4 months of the year. Lodging tax totals 9.25%.

Alta Manor Suites This modern lodging, built in 1994 in the Old English Tudor style, has spacious suites elegantly furnished with Queen Anne reproductions. All units have whirlpool baths and separate showers, natural-gas fireplaces, high-speed Web access, and queen-size beds. There's one wheelchair-accessible room. The property is entirely smoke-free, and pets are not allowed.

45 E. 500 North, Logan, UT 84321. ✆ **435/752-0808.** Fax 435/752-2445. www.altamanorsuites.com. 8 units. $104–$114 double. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. *In room:* A/C, cable TV/VCR, kitchen, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

WHERE TO DINE

The Bluebird AMERICAN The Bluebird opened in 1914 as a candy shop and soda fountain, then branched out to include a few lunch items on its menu. In 1921, it moved to its present location, expanding its menu again to include dinner. Today, The Bluebird continues to offer good food along with fountain treats. The decor, reminiscent of the 1920s, features the original marble behind the soda fountain and a mural depicting Logan from 1856 to modern times.

The menu offers the old-fashioned luncheon fare you'd expect, including a Monte Cristo and a minced ham sandwich. English-style chips can be ordered with any sandwich. There are also several full meal offerings for lunch, including a 6-ounce sirloin steak, chicken teriyaki, and a 5-ounce halibut steak. In addition to a few sandwiches, the dinner menu brings such options as vegetarian pasta primavera, chicken-fried steak, and the popular slow-roasted prime rib. No alcohol is served.

19 N. Main St. ✆ **435/752-3155.** Main courses $5–$6.50 lunch; main courses $5.50–$13 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–9:30pm; Fri–Sat 11am–10pm. Just north of Center St.

Kate's Kitchen ★ AMERICAN Kate was born in 1992, so it's her dad who is presently running the restaurant. Family-style home cooking is served in the large, informal dining room, and everything is homemade—even the ice cream. The menu includes Kate's pot roast, rotisserie or teriyaki chicken, country-style barbecued ribs, or roasted pork tenderloin. Dinners are served family-style, on platters and bowls that you pass around your table. They come with plenty of homemade muffins and honey butter, fresh garden salad with house dressing, homemade mashed potatoes (baby red potatoes, whole milk, and real butter) with gravy or seasoned rice, and corn on the cob or the veggie of the day. If you need more, just flag down a server; you can't miss them—they're the ones wearing the hats. No alcohol is served.

71½ E. 1200 South. ✆ **435/753-5733,** or 435/753-1223 for takeout. Reservations accepted for parties of 8 or more. Main-course prices for those over 12 $10–$21; children 12 and younger pay 50¢ for each birthday. MC, V. Fri–Sat 4–10pm. Main St. south and take Utah 165 towards Hyrum (the left fork when U.S. 89/91 heads right to Wellsville); turn east (left) onto 1200 South.

LOGAN AFTER DARK

The **Utah Festival Opera Company,** 59 S. 100 West (✆ **800/262-0074** or 435/750-0300, ext. 106; www.ufoc.org), presents a summer series of grand operas, light operettas, and musicals at the historic Ellen Eccles Theatre, 43 S. Main St. Recent productions have included such operas as Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* and Puccini's *La Bohème,* as well as Meredith Wilson's *The Music Man.* A number of other productions, ranging from modern dance performances to big band concerts, are staged at the **Ellen Eccles Theatre** (✆ **435/752-0026**). Call for the current schedule.

The **Old Lyric Repertory Company,** 28 W. Center St. (✆ **435/752-1500** or 435/797-0305; www.usu.edu/lyric), founded at Utah State University in 1967, presents a variety of comedies, dramas, and musicals, with equity actors, during its 8-week summer season. USU's **Performing Arts Department** (✆ **435/797-0305**) also presents plays and concerts featuring both students and faculty, plus a performing arts series showcasing national and international artists, during the school year.

8

The Southern Wasatch Front: World-Class Skiing & More

In this chapter, we head to the mountains south and east of Salt Lake City. Sections are arranged geographically from north to south, from the Cottonwood Canyon and Park City resorts to Provo and nearby Timpanogos Cave National Monument, with a few stops in between, including pristine Strawberry Reservoir, Robert Redford's Sundance Resort and Institute, and a fun old train.

1 The Cottonwood Canyon Resorts: Brighton, Solitude, Alta & Snowbird

30 miles southeast of downtown Salt Lake City

So you say you want some snow? Here it is, some 500 inches of it piling up every year, just waiting for you powder-hungry skiers to make that short drive from Salt Lake City. You'll find Brighton and Solitude ski resorts in Big Cottonwood Canyon, and Alta and Snowbird ski resorts in its sister canyon, Little Cottonwood.

If you're skiing on a budget, stay at the more affordable Salt Lake City lodgings rather than at the resorts themselves. The resorts are so close—less than an hour's drive—that city dwellers sometimes even hit the slopes after a hard day at the office.

But this area is more than just a winter playground. Big Cottonwood Canyon, cut by ancient rivers over more centuries than we can imagine, is a spectacular setting for warm-weather picnicking, camping, mountain biking, and hiking. Rugged, glacier-carved Little Cottonwood Canyon is filled with lush fields of summer wildflowers, the brilliant hues of autumn, and then a winter blanket of champagne powder snow.

GETTING THERE

BY CAR From Salt Lake City, take I-215 south to exit 7; follow Utah 210 south. Turn east onto Utah 190 to reach Solitude and Brighton in Big Cottonwood Canyon; continue on Utah 210 south and east to Snowbird and Alta in Little Cottonwood Canyon. From Salt Lake City International Airport, it'll take about an hour to reach any of the four ski areas.

BY BUS The **Utah Transit Authority** (✆ **888/743-3882** or 801/743-3882; www.rideuta.com) provides bus service from downtown Salt Lake City hotels and various park-and-ride lots throughout the city into Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons during ski season. Cost is $6 round-trip.

BY SHUTTLE **All Resort Express** (✆ **800/457-9457** or 435/649-3999; www.allresort.com) offers shuttles from the airport and major Salt Lake City hotels ($70 round-trip).

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

Utah 190 will take you through Big Cottonwood Canyon to Brighton and Solitude. Each turn along your drive to the summit of this 15-mile-long canyon brings you to yet another grand, dizzying vista. Rock climbers love these steep, rugged canyon walls—watch for them as you drive.

BRIGHTON SKI RESORT

In operation since 1936, the low-key, family-friendly **Brighton Ski Resort,** 12601 Big Cottonwood Canyon Rd., Brighton, UT 84121 (✆ **800/873-5512** or 801/532-4731; www.brightonresort.com), is where many Utahns learn to ski and snowboard—the ski and snowboard school is highly regarded. Children 10 and under stay and ski free with their parents, and teens particularly enjoy the bumps of Lost Maid Trail as it winds through the woods. But don't let its reputation as a beginner's mountain fool you: Brighton's slopes are graced with a full range of terrain, all the powder you can imagine, and virtually no crowds. You'll find more Utahns than out-of-staters on the slopes here—Brighton is located just 35 miles from downtown Salt Lake City at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon, and visitors tend to stay away because of the paucity of area lodgings. There's always plenty of elbow room on the intermediate and advanced slopes on the weekends, and you'll probably have them all to yourself on weekdays. You needn't leave after dark: Brighton lights up 200 acres for night skiing.

Brighton is also one of the best snowboarding destinations in the state.

Brighton has three high-speed quad lifts, one triple, three double chairs, and a fixed-grip quad serving over 850 acres in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The lift-served vertical drop is 1,745 feet, with a vertical drop of almost 2,000 feet accessible by hiking. Base elevation is 8,755 feet. Of the 66 runs, 21% are rated beginner, 40% intermediate, and 39% advanced. Lifts are open daily from 9am to 4pm, early November to late April, with night skiing and snowboarding Monday through Saturday from 4 to 9pm. The resort can make snow on 200 acres, but with 500 inches of average snowfall per year, the man-made stuff isn't usually necessary.

Brighton has a beautiful 20,000-square-foot day lodge, with ticket windows, restrooms, a common area, a ski rental and repair facility, and a convenient bus depot.

See p. 137 for information on getting to the ski area.

LIFT TICKETS Adult all-day passes cost $44; night skiing, $28. Children 11 to 12 are $40, but those 10 and under ski free with an adult. Seniors 70 and over are $10.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS **Brighton Ski & Snowboard School,** in the Alpine Rose building, offers both private and group lessons. Group lessons cost $65 including equipment and lift ticket, or $30 for the lesson only. Private lessons start at $60 for 1 hour. Night skiing lessons cost $30, including a lift ticket. The ski and snowboard school also offers a variety of workshops and clinics, including a telemark series as well as adult parallel, senior, children's, and women's workshops.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE **Brighton Lodge,** at the ski resort (✆ **800/873-5512** or 801/532-4731; www.brightonresort.com), has 20 units, ranging from dorm-style rooms (which sleep up to four) to luxurious suites, with rates of $95 to $170 double. The lodge's heated swimming pool and large outdoor Jacuzzi will help loosen those sore muscles for your next day of skiing. Room tax is about 91/2%. You'll find cafeteria-style dining for all three meals and a bar that opens for lunch and stays open through après-ski and dinner.

Tips Great Cross-Country Skiing

Solitude Nordic Center ★★ is Utah's oldest cross-country ski area. It has 12 miles of groomed trails, including a children's trail. The center is located between Solitude and Brighton at 8,700 feet and connects the two downhill resorts. Trails pass through alpine forests and meadows and around frozen Silver Lake. The **Silver Lake Day Lodge** offers rentals, equipment for sale, lessons, and light snacks. Trail passes for ages 11 to 69 cost $15 for a full day, $10 for a half-day. Those 10 and under or 70 and over ski free.

WARM-WEATHER FUN Mountain biking and hiking are popular activities, but note that lifts are not open in summer.

SOLITUDE MOUNTAIN RESORT

Solitude, 12000 Big Cottonwood Canyon, Solitude, UT 84121 (✆ **800/748-4754** or 801/534-1400; www.skisolitude.com), is a friendly, family-oriented resort that hasn't been "discovered" yet, so lift lines are virtually nonexistent. The snow is terrific, and it's easy to reach—just 28 miles from downtown Salt Lake City in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Like its next-door neighbor, Brighton—which is connected to Solitude via the Solbright Trail—Solitude enjoys excellent powder and few crowds. Its 1,200-plus acres of skiable terrain range from well-groomed, sunny beginner and intermediate trails to gently pitched bowls and glades. The mountain is well designed, with runs laid out so beginners won't suddenly find themselves in more difficult terrain. Intermediates have wide-open bowls in which to cruise and practice their powder skiing, several excellent forest runs, and some great bumpy stretches on which to hone their mogul skills. Advanced skiers have many long fall lines, open powder areas, and steeply graded chutes.

Solitude is the state's only downhill ski area with a world-class Nordic center out its back door: The University of Utah and U.S. Olympic teams train here. The resort also has an ice-skating rink.

One high-speed quad lift, one fixed-grip quad, two triples, and four doubles service 64 runs and three bowls. Runs are rated 20% beginner, 50% intermediate, and 30% advanced/expert. The resort is open from early November to late April, daily from 9am to 4pm. With a summit elevation of 10,035 feet and a vertical drop of 2,047 feet, Solitude receives an average snowfall of more than 500 inches.

See p. 137 for information on getting to the ski area.

LIFT TICKETS All-day passes cost $50 for adults, $15 for seniors 70 and older; those 6 and under ski free. Afternoon half-day adult lift tickets are $42.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS Solitude's **ski school** offers group and private lessons. Adult group classes are $50 for a half-day, $70 for all day; call for rates for customized private lessons. The **Moonbeam Learning Center,** for kids 4 through 12, offers an all-day learn-to-ski program, including lunch, lift ticket, and rental, for $100; the afternoon-only program is $55.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE The **Inn at Solitude** is a full-service luxury hotel, with 46 rooms and nightly rates from $145 to $350. Its restaurant, **St. Bernard's,** offers fine dining with a menu from Europe's Alpine regions. Only dinner is served.

The resort also manages more than **135 condo units** in five buildings, including units with three bedrooms plus den, with prices ranging from $195 to $620.

Adjacent to the Apex Chairlift and with terrific views of the mountain, the day lodge **Last Chance Mining Camp** offers hearty breakfast and lunch fare, and après-ski refreshments. The new **Moonbeam Day Lodge** has a cafeteria for breakfast and lunch and a pub for dinner and libations. The **Sunshine Grill** is partway up the mountain at 9,000 feet elevation. It has a sunny deck and terrific views of the slopes, and serves lunch, plus snacks on weekends and holidays.

For an unusual experience, reserve dinner at the **Yurt** (✆ **800/748-4754,** ext. 5709), in the forest above the main lodge. You can either cross-country ski or snowshoe through the evergreens to get to your elegant five-course gourmet meal, served at a table set with linen, silver, and crystal. Dress is casual, but the meal isn't. Advance reservations are recommended after mid-October.

Room tax in this area is 9½%.

WARM-WEATHER FUN Solitude remains open in summer, offering chairlift rides, mountain bike and scooter rentals, 18-hole mountainside disc golf, and a place to hike or just kick back and watch the wildflowers grow.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

With towering peaks rising 11,000 feet above the road on both sides, Utah 210 takes you on a lovely scenic drive through the canyon. Located at the junction of Utah 209 and Utah 210, the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon is where pioneers quarried the granite used to build the LDS Church's Salt Lake Temple.

ALTA SKI AREA ★★★

Alta, P.O. Box 8007, Alta, UT 84092-8007 (✆ **801/359-1078;** www.alta.com), is famous for its snow—over 500 inches of some of the lightest powder in the world—and at $49 for an all-day lift ticket, it's an excellent value. Located about 45 minutes southeast of Salt Lake City, at the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon, Alta is an excellent choice for serious skiers of all levels. Beginners have their share of runs, and there's even a bit of easygoing tree skiing through the woods for the more adventurous novices. Intermediates will find plenty of open cruising ground, forested areas, and long, arcing chutes to glide through, plus opportunities to work on their bumps technique (try Challenger for a moderately pitched set) or practice their turns in the powder. Experts will find an abundance of the Cottonwood Canyons' famous powder and spectacular runs, like steep, long Alf's High Rustler. Alta offers much for the expert and the extreme skier—far too much to cover here—but hard-core skiers should know that you'll have to step out of the bindings and do a bit of hiking to get to some of the longest drops and best powder-laden runs.

Alta's fans are many and loyal. That's because the emphasis here is on quality skiing, and to protect that quality, Alta has chosen to limit its uphill capacity. This is a classic ski resort, with both European-style terrain *and* sensibilities. This means that people are turned away on those occasions when the ski gods determine there are already enough skiers on the mountain. An announcement is made on 530 AM radio about a half-hour before the closure.

Alta is one of the few Western ski areas left that forbids snowboarding.

More than 50 runs are served by two detachable quads, one detachable triple, one triple, three doubles, and five surface tows. Alta has 2,200 skiable acres, with snow-making on 50 acres. Although it's famous for its expert runs, Alta also has fine beginner and

intermediate trails. The breakdown is 25% beginner, 40% intermediate, and 35% advanced, with a base elevation of 8,530 feet rising to 10,550 feet at the top, yielding a vertical drop of 2,020 feet. Alta is generally open from mid-November to mid-April, with lifts operating daily from 9:15am to 4:30pm.

Alta Ski Lifts Company owns and operates only the ski area; all other businesses and services are privately run. At the base of Albion and Sunnyside lifts, you'll find a day lodge with cafeteria, lift-ticket sales, day care, the ski school, and rentals. Two more cafeterias are located on the mountain. A transfer tow connects the Albion and Wildcat lift areas; in this base area, there are four lodges with dining facilities, ski rentals, and kids' programs.

See p. 137 for information on getting to the ski area.

LIFT TICKETS All-day all-lift tickets cost $49, with half-day tickets at $44. Beginner lifts only are $26, and children 12 and younger ski for $21. There are also combination lift tickets for both Alta and Snowbird.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS Founded in 1948 by Alf Engen, the highly regarded **ski school** (✆ **801/359-1078**) is recognized for its contribution to the development of professional ski instruction. Two-hour group lessons cost $42; private instruction starts at $75 for a 1-hour lesson. The **Children's Ski Adventures** program, for ages 4 to 12, offers fun skill development, and lessons in ski etiquette. Choose either a half- or all-day program.

Alta's **day-care program** (✆ **801/742-3042;** www.altaschildrencenter.com) is open to children ages 2 months to 10 years old; reservations are encouraged. Call for current rates.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE Our favorite places to stay in Alta are slope-side. The following accommodations add a 15% service charge to your bill in lieu of tipping; room tax adds about 11%.

Alta Lodge (✆ **800/707-2582** or 801/742-3500; www.altalodge.com) is perhaps the quintessential mountain ski lodge—simple and rustic, with a touch of class. The lodge has Jacuzzis, saunas, a general store, a kids' program, a bar, and a restaurant with superb food. The comfortable units range from small and basic dormitory rooms to handsome corner rooms with fireplaces and a balcony. Rates, including breakfast and dinner, range from $250 to $513 for two, or $106 to $135 per bed in a dorm room.

Rustler Lodge (✆ **888/532-2582** for reservations, or 801/742-2200; fax 801/742-3832; www.rustlerlodge.com) is elegant yet relaxed, with a great mountain-lodge ambience, a spa, and rooms that range from basic to deluxe (several two-room suites are available). Rates, including full breakfast and dinner, range from $291 to $743 for two; a bed for one in a dorm room, with breakfast and dinner, costs $121 to $179.

SNOWBIRD SKI & SUMMER RESORT ★★

The combination of super skiing and snowboarding plus super facilities lures both hard-core enthusiasts seeking spectacular powder, and those who enjoy the pampering that accompanies a stay at a full-service resort. Consistently rated among America's top-10 ski resorts, **Snowbird,** P.O. Box 929000, Snowbird, UT 84092-9000 (✆ **800/232-9542** or 801/742-2222, and 801/933-2100 for snow conditions; www.snowbird.com), is Alta's "younger, slicker sister." You'll find the same wonderful snow here, but with a wider range of amenities, including Snowbird's extremely popular spa and salon—worth the trip even if you don't ski. Some, however, find Snowbird's dense,

Tips Off the Slopes at Snowbird

Don't miss the popular **Cliff Spa and Salon** (✆ **801/933-2225**), which offers a lap pool and huge whirlpool, aerobic and weight-training rooms, and individual treatment rooms for massages, body wraps, mud baths, and hydrotherapy. The **Snowbird Canyon Racquet Club** (✆ **801/947-8200**), 15 minutes from the slopes, features 23 tennis courts (10 indoor), racquetball, and aerobic and cardiovascular facilities. Snowbird provides a variety of facilities for children, including a state-licensed day-care center and a youth camp; call for details.

modern village and resort atmosphere cold compared to Alta's historic, European-style lodges and classic, ruggedly Western atmosphere and attitude.

Expert skiers love Snowbird, which has plunging cliff runs like Great Scott, one of the steepest runs in the country. Mogul-meisters will want to take the Peruvian or Gad II lifts to a great variety of fall lines on some steep and sinuous runs.

But beginners and intermediates haven't been forgotten, and their runs are also top-notch. There are even some "family-only" ski zones. Novices might want to head over to explore West Second South, set in a woodsy glade, or the less crowded Baby Thunder area. Intermediates will enjoy the excellent runs coming off the Gad II lift; if you decide to take the tram, wait around a bit at the top while your fellow riders take off so that you'll have these blue runs all to yourself—the next tramload won't get dumped off for another 5 minutes.

The entire mountain is open to snowboarders, and the resort also provides snowmobile adventures and cat skiing and snowboarding.

Snowbird has 85 runs on 2,500 acres, rated 27% beginner, 38% intermediate, and 35% advanced/expert. The ski season generally runs from mid-November to mid-May, although the record-breaking 600 inches—that's 50 feet—of snow that fell in 1994–95 allowed Snowbird to keep the lifts running through the Fourth of July—the latest lift-served skiing ever in Utah. From a base elevation of 7,760 feet, the vertical rise of 3,240 feet reaches Hidden Peak at 11,000 feet.

An aerial tram transports 125 skiers and boarders at a time up 2,900 vertical feet to Hidden Peak in about 8 minutes. It's quick, but can feel like a crowded New York City subway car. Snowbird also has three high-speed detachable quads, seven doubles, and two rope tows, giving it a total uphill capacity of 16,800 skiers per hour. The tram and lifts operate between 9am and 4:30pm daily, except for one that operates until 8:30pm for night skiing Wednesdays and Fridays, and luge on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

LIFT TICKETS Adult lift tickets cost $51 for a full day and $45 for a half-day; for both lifts and tram, the cost is $62 and $53, respectively. Children 12 and under and seniors 65 and over are charged $40, or $49 including tram. There are also combination lift tickets for both Snowbird and Alta.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **ski and snowboarding school** offers an all-day class (which includes lunch); a package for first-timers; and specialized workshops for racers, women, snowboarders, half-pipe riders, and seniors. Half-day workshops start at about $65.

Established in 1977, Snowbird's **Wasatch Adaptive Sports Program** is among the best special-needs sports programs in the country. Using state-of-the-art adaptive ski

devices and a team of specially trained instructors, the program is available to both children and adults. Sit-skis, mono-skis, and outriggers are available at no extra cost.

HELI-SKIING Between December 15 and April 15, helicopter skiing is available on more than 40,000 acres from **Wasatch Powderbird Guides** (✆ **800/974-4354** or 801/742-2800; www.powderbird.com). Daily rates (seven runs, a continental breakfast, and lunch) are $770 to $840 per person from mid-January through the third week of March, and $595 to $665 per person at other times.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE The approximately 900 rooms at Snowbird range from standard lodge units to luxurious condominiums with kitchens and fireplaces. **Snowbird Central Reservations** (✆ **800/453-3000**) books all lodging for the resort and can also arrange air and ground transportation. Room tax adds about 11%.

The **Cliff Lodge, Spa, and Conference Center** is located in a ski-in, ski-out pedestrian mall. Practically all of the 511 rooms, with mission-style furnishings, have splendid views of the mountain or canyon. Choose a standard or extra-large room, or a one- or two-bedroom suite. You'll find a splendid spa, restaurants, shops, and practically anything else you might want. Rooms are $229 to $389 double, and suites start around $400.

The Lodge at Snowbird, The Inn, and **Iron Blosam Lodge** are condominium properties, offering rooms, efficiencies, studios, and one-bedroom and one-bedroom-with-loft units. Many have Western decor and Murphy beds and/or sofa beds. Rates range from $129 for a basic room at The Inn to $800 for a deluxe room in a lodge.

The **Aerie Restaurant** (✆ **801/933-2160**), on the top floor of the Cliff Lodge, features New American dining with spectacular views, and serves a skier's breakfast buffet in the winter, and dinner year-round. Entree prices range from $20 to $35. Also in Cliff Lodge, **Del Sur** (✆ **801/933-2025**) serves Mexican seafood for lunch and dinner in the summer, dinner-only in winter. Dinner prices range from $8 to $25. On level B of Cliff Lodge is the **Atrium** (✆ **801/933-2140**), with tremendous alpine views. It features a buffet lunch in winter and a light breakfast buffet in summer, with prices from $12 to $22. The Atrium Espresso Bar is open daily.

For steak and seafood, try the **Steak Pit** (✆ **801/933-2260**), in Snowbird Center, open for dinner daily. Prices range from $15 to $40. Also in the Snowbird Center is the **Forklift Restaurant** (✆ **801/933-4240**), serving breakfast and lunch daily. Prices range from $7 to $11.

The **Lodge Bistro** (✆ **801/933-2145**) is on the pool level in the Lodge at Snowbird, offering an eclectic dinner menu in an intimate setting. Italian fare is offered for dinner daily at Iron Blosam's **Wildflower** (✆ **801/933-2230**). Entrees at both range from $10 to $30.

WARM-WEATHER FUN After the skiers go home for the season, Snowbird is still active with hikers and mountain bikers. A lift hauls mountain bikers up the slopes. In July, Snowbird's music program includes live jazz and performances by the Utah Symphony; call for details.

2 Park City: Utah's Premier Resort Town ★★

31 miles E of Salt Lake City

Utah's most sophisticated resort community, Park City, reminds us of Aspen, Colorado, and Taos, New Mexico—other historic Western towns that have made the

most of excellent ski terrain while evolving into popular year-round vacation destinations, offering a casual Western atmosphere with a touch of elegance.

A silver boom brought thousands to Park City in the 1870s, and that boom continued for 50 years, giving Park City a population of 10,000 at its height, with more than 30 saloons along Main Street and a flourishing red-light district. Then came the Depression and plummeting mineral prices, leaving Park City to doze in the summer sun and under a blanket of winter snow. In 1963, the area's first ski lift was built (rates were $2.50 for a weekend of sledding and skiing), and Park City was on the road to becoming one of the West's most popular ski towns.

Today's visitors will find three separate ski areas, lodgings that range from basic to luxurious, some of the state's most innovative restaurants and best shops, an abundance of fine performing arts events, many of Utah's liveliest nightspots, and plenty of hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and other outdoor opportunities.

As in many tourist towns, prices here can be a bit steep; if you're watching your wallet, avoid visiting during the Christmas season or the Sundance Film Festival in mid- to late January, when Hollywood takes over. Those who are really pinching pennies might want to stay in Salt Lake City and drive to Park City in the morning for a day of skiing, exploring, or adventuring.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE Most visitors fly into Salt Lake City International Airport and drive or take a shuttle to Park City. Driving time from the airport is about 35 minutes. At I-80 exit 145, take Utah 224 into Park City.

Park City Transportation (✆ **800/637-3803** or 435/649-8567; www.parkcitytransportation.com) offers frequent shuttles from the Salt Lake City airport and hotels ($58 round-trip). **Lewis Bros. Stages** (✆ **877/491-8111** or 801/359-8677; www.lewisbros.com) offers transportation from Park City to Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons ($70). **All Resort Express** (✆ **800/457-9457** or 435/649-3999; www.allresort.com) also serves the area.

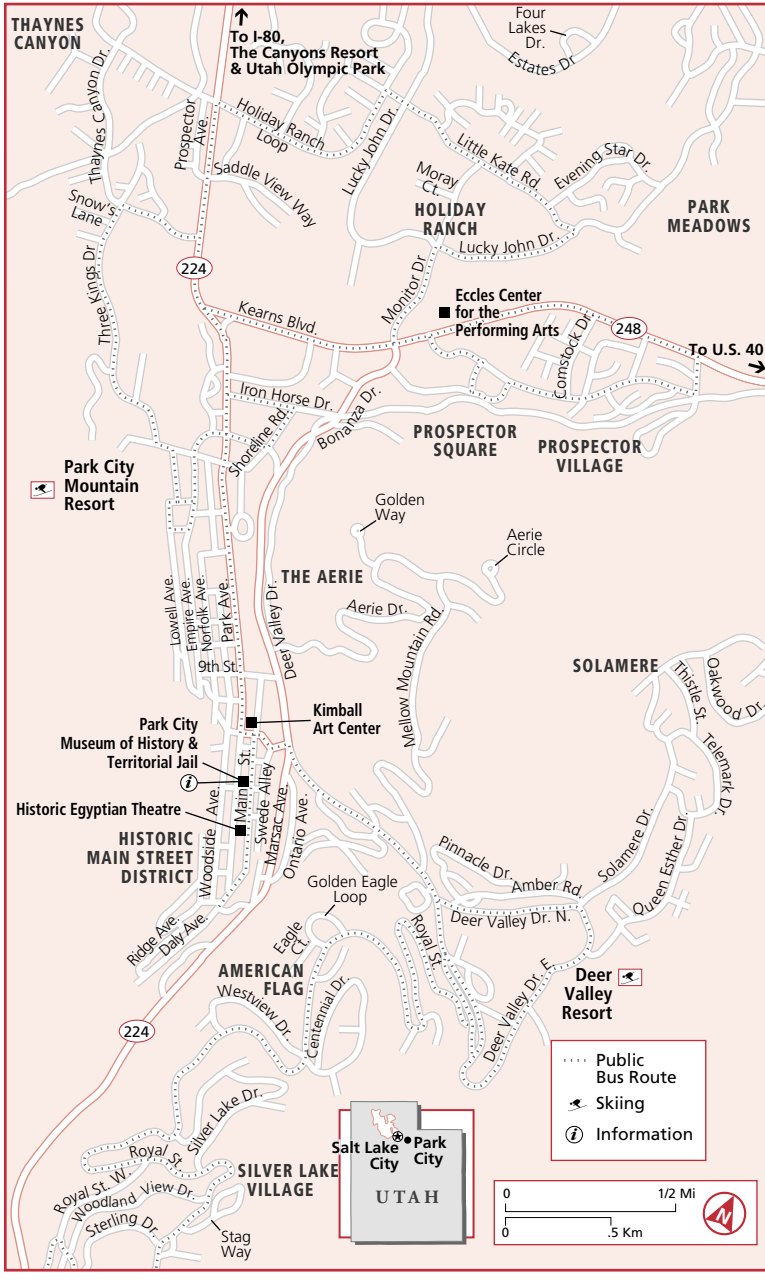
VISITOR INFORMATION The **Park City Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau,** 1910 Prospector Ave. (P.O. Box 1630), Park City, UT 84060 (✆ **800/453-1360** or 435/649-6100; www.parkcityinfo.com), is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. It operates a visitor information center at 1826 W. Olympic Pkwy. at the entrance to the Utah Olympic Park near I-80, open daily from 9am to 6pm; and another center in the Park City Museum, 528 Main St., open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 7pm and Sunday from noon to 6pm.

GETTING AROUND Parking in Park City is limited, especially in the historic Main Street area, and it is just plain awful if you're driving a motor home or pulling a trailer. If you've arrived in a car, the best plan is to park it and ride the free city bus.

Tips Step Back in Time

Be sure to pick up a copy of the *Park City Main Street Historic Walking Tour* brochure at the visitor information center. It will lead you to 45 buildings and historic sites that have somehow managed to survive fires, hard times, and progress through the decades. The historic walk, complete with engaging anecdotes, really brings the town's lively past to life.

The Park City Area



There's metered parking (in effect 11am–8pm) along Main Street, and there are fairly large parking lots near both the upper and lower ends of Main Street.

If you still want to rent a car and brave the parking problems, rental agencies here include **All Resort Car Rental,** 1821 Sidewinder Dr. (✆ **800/457-9457** or 435/649-3999), and **Enterprise,** 6560 N. Landmark Dr. (✆ **800/736-8222** or 435/655-7277).

Park City's very efficient free transit system offers several routes throughout Park City and the surrounding area, daily from 7am until 1am. The **Main Street Trolley** links Main Street and Park City Mountain Resort, and **public buses** travel to the outlying areas. Pick up the *Transit System Guide* brochure for a good route map and specific schedules. The weekly booklet *This Week in Park City* contains helpful info plus several area maps, including one of Main Street. Both are available at the visitor centers and many lodgings.

FAST FACTS To take care of injury or illness, go to **Park City Family Health and Urgent Care Center,** 1665 Bonanza Dr. (✆ **435/649-7640;** www.parkcityclinic.com), or **Snow Creek Emergency & Medical Center,** 1600 Snow Creek Dr. (✆ **435/655-0055**). The main **post office** is at 450 Main St. (✆ **800/275-8777**). The local **newspaper** is the *Park Record,* published every Wednesday and Saturday.

SKIING THE PARK CITY AREA RESORTS

The three area ski resorts, all within a few minutes' drive of each other, are vastly different. There's something for everyone here: Posh **Deer Valley** is Utah's version of very upscale Beaver Creek, Colorado, and big and lively **Park City** is the party resort. **The Canyons** is casual and friendly. Snowboarders are welcome at Park City Mountain Resort and The Canyons, but not Deer Valley.

Many skiers try all three resorts, and if you're going to do so, it will pay to do a bit of advance planning. The **Silver Passport** is a discounted multi-day package for use at all three resorts. There are various restrictions, though, including that it MUST be purchased before your arrival in Park City, and that it must be purchased in conjunction with lodging. Contact the Park City Chamber for details.

DEER VALLEY RESORT ★★★

If you're looking for a first-class experience in every way, this is the spot for you. Unquestionably Utah's most elegant and sophisticated resort, **Deer Valley,** P.O. Box 1525, Park City, UT 84060 (✆ **800/424-3337** or 435/649-1000, or 435/649-2000 for snow conditions; www.deervalley.com), offers perfectly manicured slopes, guest service attendants, heated sidewalks, and some of the state's finest dining and lodging. Along with all this, you get fantastic skiing—especially if you crave long, smooth, perfectly groomed cruising runs that let you enjoy the spectacular mountain scenery around you. Although half of the terrain is rated intermediate, beginners love Success, a long run that gives them the feeling they're actually getting somewhere. In addition, much of the intermediate terrain is fit for advancing novices, as the entire mountain is kept very skiable. Experts will find some steep, exhilarating-enough trails on top, through majestic aspen and evergreen glades, plus plenty of woodsy terrain to weave through. Deer Valley is primarily a pampering resort experience, meant for cruising the wide lanes of impeccably groomed snow all day, then hobnobbing all evening with the rich—and often famous—over gourmet meals in the plush lodges.

Six bowls and 88 runs are spread over Empire Canyon, Deer Crest, Flagstaff, Bald, and Bald Eagle mountains, served by a total of 21 chairlifts—nine high-speed quad

lifts, a high-speed gondola, two fixed-grip quads, seven triples, and two double chairs. The base is at 6,570 feet with the summit at 9,570 feet, yielding a 3,000-foot vertical drop. The ski season generally runs from early December to mid-April, with lifts operating daily from 9am to 4:15pm. The 1,750 skiable acres are rated 15% beginner, 50% intermediate, and 35% advanced. Deer Valley has snow-making over 500 acres.

From Utah 224, head southeast on Deer Valley Drive to the resort.

LIFT TICKETS All-day lift tickets cost $74 for adults ($76 during holidays), $42 for children 4 to 12, $19 for children 3 and under, and $52 for seniors 65 and older.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **ski school** (✆ **435/645-6648**) at Deer Valley offers private and group lessons, workshops, and clinics. Group lessons for 3 hours cost about $125 for adults (not including lift ticket); private lessons are also available.

The licensed **child-care center,** open daily from 8:30am to 4:30pm, costs $90 per day for kids ages 2 months to 12 years, and includes lunch.

WHERE TO DINE ON THE MOUNTAIN **Snow Park Lodge** (✆ **435/645-6632**), at the base, has a bakery, two restaurants, and a lounge. The **Seafood Buffet,** open Monday through Saturday evenings, offers hearty hot meals, a salad and seafood buffet, and fancy desserts. **Snow Park Lounge** serves hors d'oeuvres after 3:30pm.

Silver Lake Lodge (✆ **435/645-6715**), midway up the mountain, serves a variety of quick-and-easy food all day, including continental breakfasts (with fresh-baked pastries), salads, grilled fare, and pizzas. There's also a fine Continental dining room, the **Mariposa,** open evenings only.

PARK CITY MOUNTAIN RESORT ★★

Park City Mountain Resort, P.O. Box 39, Park City, UT 84060 (✆ **800/222-7275** or 435/649-8111, or 435/647-5449 for snow reports; www.parkcitymountain.com), one of Utah's largest and liveliest resorts, is where the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Olympic team comes to train. It's an official training site of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association as well. What brings them here? Plenty of dependable, powdery snow and a variety of terrain and runs that offer something for everyone. Surveys continually rank Park City among the country's top resorts for both its terrain and its challenging runs. And, because it's located right in the heart of Park City, what more could you ask for in terms of amenities?

Beginners will find plenty of great training ground, blessedly free of that frequent mountain problem—hordes of advanced skiers whizzing their way right through the green runs on their way to the bottom. After they have a good handle on the sport, beginners and novices can head up the lift to Summit House and then glide down their own scenic 3½-mile green run. Intermediates will find good cruising ground and powder runs; experts can delight in some 1,000 acres of wide-open bowls and hair-raising narrow chutes. After a good storm, the locals know to rise early, race to the top of the Jupiter Bowl, and carve their way back down through fresh powder.

The resort has four six-passenger high-speed lifts, two high-speed quads, four triples, and four double chairs servicing 100 runs on 3,300 acres; plus one Magic Carpet people mover in the Kids Mountain Adventure area. There's even a triple-chair access lift directly from Park City's Old Town onto the mountain, as well as two runs (Quit 'n' Time and Creole) that lead back into town, so those staying in Park City proper don't have to ride back and forth to the base resort every day. Trails are rated 18% beginner, 44% intermediate, and 38% expert. With a base elevation of 6,900 feet and summit of 10,000 feet, the vertical drop is 3,100 feet. The season generally

runs from late November to mid-April, with lifts operating daily between 9am and 4pm. Night operations usually run from Christmas through March from 4 to 9pm, and include a snowboard park. Park City has snow-making capabilities on 475 acres.

The **Resort Center,** at the base of the mountain, houses the ski school, equipment sales and rentals, a restaurant and bar, lockers, and a ticket office.

The resort is off of Main Street.

LIFT TICKETS All-day lift ticket fees vary throughout the season, but average about $71 for adults, $35 for children 7 to 12, and $42 for seniors. Children 6 and under ski free.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **Park City Mountain Resort Ski and Snowboard School** (✆ **800/227-2754**) offers a wide variety of choices for every level, including group and private lessons for adults and children 7 to 13, plus a **Kids Mountain Adventure** for ages 3 to 6 that includes equipment rental, a snack, lunch, and lessons. Group lessons start at about $70 for 3 hours; a 1-hour private lesson costs $110 to $150; and the Kids Mountain Adventure starts at $110. Customized packages are available.

WHERE TO DINE ON THE MOUNTAIN In addition to the wide variety of options in Park City (see "Where to Dine," later in this chapter), you'll find the following slope-side facilities. None require reservations.

The **Food Court,** at the Legacy Lodge, offers homemade breakfast and dinner buffets. For lunch it offers soups and stews, sandwiches, pizza, a salad bar, and fresh roasted meats. A bar on the third floor offers après-ski live entertainment.

Mid-Mountain Lodge is at the base of Pioneer Lift on the Mid-Mountain Ski Run, at 8,700 feet. Built around 1898, the lodge may be the oldest original mine building in Park City. It's open daily for lunch, serving vegetarian dishes, homemade soups and stews, salads, burgers, sandwiches, and pizza.

Caffe Amante, with espresso bar and light fare, is in a yurt under the Bonanza chairlift; **Summit House,** at the top of the Bonanza chairlift, serves lunch and boasts an outdoor deck with magnificent panoramic views and a cozy fireplace inside. The **Snow Hut,** at the bottom of the Silverlode six-passenger lift, serves breakfast and lunch daily.

THE CANYONS

The Canyons Resort, 4000 The Canyons Resort Dr., Park City, UT 84098 (✆ **888/CANYONS** or 435/649-5400; www.thecanyons.com), America's fifth-largest ski area, offers a wide variety of terrain on eight distinct mountains, with an excellent people-moving system to get you to the runs that you want to ski quickly and efficiently. In the past few years, intermediate and expert terrains have been greatly expanded. The large beginners' area offers gentle slopes and grand views.

The resort has 146 runs on more than 3,500 skiable acres, serviced by one high-speed gondola, five high-speed quad chairs, four fixed-grip quad chairs, two triple chairs, one double chair, one eight-person Cabriolet, and two surface lifts. It receives an average of 355 inches of snow a year, and has snow-making on 400 acres. The vertical drop serviced by lifts is 3,190 feet, from a base elevation of 6,800 feet. The summit elevation is 9,990 feet. Runs are rated 14% beginner, 44% intermediate, and 42% advanced. The season usually runs from late November to mid-April, with lifts operating daily from 8:30am to 4pm.

The Red Pine and lower-lot day lodges offer ski and snowboard rentals, and the base lodge houses a day-care center.

The Canyons is on the west side of Utah 224 a few miles south of I-80.

LIFT TICKETS Adult lift tickets cost $69 for a full day ($75 during holidays); children 7 to 12 and seniors pay $41. Kids 6 and under ride the lifts free.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **ski school** offers lessons for both skiing and snowboarding, starting at $65 for a 2½-hour group clinic. Private lessons start at $120 for 1 hour.

WHERE TO DINE ON THE MOUNTAIN Among the ski area's restaurants are the **Red Pine Lodge,** featuring lunches of pizza, fresh grilled entrees, hearty soups, and a salad bar; **Smokies Smokehouse,** which offers barbecue and Cajun fare in an informal setting for lunch and dinner; and **The Cabin,** an upscale restaurant offering regional dishes with Southwestern ingredients for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

OTHER WINTER FUN

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING **White Pine Touring Center** (✆ **435/649-8701** or 435/615-5858; www.whitepinetouring.com), is Park City's cross-country ski center, with 11 miles of groomed trails on the Park City Golf Course on Utah 224, on the north side of town. The center offers rentals, instruction (including skating and telemark lessons), guided tours, and sales and service. The terrain is rated 60% beginner, 20% intermediate, and 20% advanced. Full-day trail passes cost $18 for adults, $8 for kids 7 to 12; children 6 and younger and seniors over 65 ski free. White Pine is open daily from 9am to 6pm, usually from mid-November through March.

SNOWMOBILE & SLEIGH RIDES Guided snowmobiling tours and sleigh rides are available at the scenic Rockin' R Ranch, east of Park City in Weber Canyon, from **Rocky Mountain Recreation** (✆ **800/303-7256** or 435/645-7256; www.rockymtnrec.com). A sleigh ride, with dinner, costs about $60 for adults, $40 for children 12 and under. Snowmobile trips range from about $60 to $150 for the driver ($20–$50 for a passenger), depending on length. Also offering a variety of snowmobile tours is **Summit Mountain Adventures** (✆ **888/896-7669** or 435/645-7669; www.utahsnowmobiling.com).

WARM-WEATHER FUN IN & AROUND PARK CITY

ALPINE SLIDE Individual sleds speed down a plastic bobsledlike track that's over a half-mile long at **Park City Mountain Resort** (p. 147; ✆ **800/222-7275** or

Moments The Olympics Live On!

Park City's $100-million **Utah Olympic Park,** 3000 Bear Hollow Dr. (✆ **888/659-7275** or 435/658-4200; www.utaholympicpark.com), constructed for the 2002 Olympics, has six state-of-the-art ski jumps, a 1,335m bobsled/luge track, a freestyle aerials training and competition hill, a day lodge, a ski museum, and an exhibit on the 2002 games. The U.S. Ski Team uses the facility regularly, and it's open year-round for both guided and self-guided tours. On summer Saturdays, there are demonstrations of freestyle aerials and ski jumping. The Olympic Park also offers bobsled runs and schedules workshops on freestyle aerials and ski jumping, even for amateurs (call for schedules and rates). Admission is $7 for adults, $5 for youths 3 to 17 and seniors 65 and older, and free for children under 3. Call for current hours.

435/649-8111; www.parkcitymountain.com). Riders control the speed of their sleds. Cost is $11 for adults and $3 for passengers ages 2 to 6; those under 2 cannot ride.

FLY-FISHING Anglers have plenty of opportunities for fishing in the streams in the mountains around Park City, either on their own or with local guides. For tips on where they're biting, as well as equipment and information on guided trips, check with **Jans Mountain Outfitters,** 1600 Park Ave. (✆ **800/745-1020** or 435/649-4949; www.jans.com), or **Park City Fly Shop,** 2065 Sidewinder Dr., Prospector Square (✆ **800/324-6778** or 435/645-8382; www.pcflyshop.com).

HIKING & MOUNTAIN BIKING The mountains around Park City offer numerous trails for hiking and mountain biking. For a short hike with a variety of terrain and good views of both mountains and town, try the 1½-mile **Sweeny Switchbacks Trail,** accessible from the base of the town lift.

The 30-mile **Historic Union Pacific Rail Trail State Park** hiking and biking path follows the old Union Pacific railroad bed from Park City to Echo Reservoir. It offers wonderful views of meadows, the volcanic crags of Silver Creek Canyon, the Weber River, Echo Reservoir, and the steep walls of Echo Canyon. You might spot deer, elk, moose, and bald eagles along the trail. An end-of-the-trail pickup service is available from **Daytrips** (✆ **888/649-8294;** www.daytrips.com).

More than 30 miles of dirt roads and single-track trails at **Park City Mountain Resort** (p. 147; ✆ **800/222-7275** or 435/649-8111; www.parkcitymountain.com) are open to hikers and mountain bikers, who can ride the PayDay chairlift up and then bike or hike down. Tickets cost $11 for a single ride, or $18 for an all-day pass. **Deer Valley Resort** (p. 146; ✆ **800/424-3337** or 435/649-1000; www.deervalley.com) offers more than 50 miles of panoramic trails for both hikers and bikers, with chairlift access in summer ($12 a ride or $20 a day). As you might expect, the terrain is steep and beautiful.

For a good description of several other area trails, pick up a copy of the free *Park City Hiking & Biking Trail Map* at either visitor center and at sporting goods shops.

HORSEBACK RIDING Guided trail rides are available from several outfitters in the area. **Rocky Mountain Recreation** (p. 149) operates stables at Park City Mountain Resort, at Deer Valley Resort, and at 2,300-acre Rockin' R Ranch. It operates daily from late May to late October. Rates start around $45 for adults and $35 for children for a 1-hour ride. Rides up to 6 hours and rides with meals are also offered so call for details.

MORE TO SEE & DO IN PARK CITY

Kimball Art Center

This highly respected center for visual arts, housed in a historic 1929 building, has three galleries, with changing exhibits, both classic and contemporary, that include national and international traveling shows, as well as works by local artists. This nonprofit community art center also sponsors classes, workshops, and seminars throughout the year. Each summer on the first weekend in August, it produces the Park City Arts Festival, an outdoor exhibit featuring works by about 200 fine artists. Allow about 45 minutes.

638 Park Ave., at the bottom of Main St. ✆ **435/649-8882.** www.kimball-art.org. Free admission; donations accepted. Wed–Fri and Mon 10am–5pm; Sat–Sun noon–5pm. All bus loops stop here.

Park City Museum of History & Territorial Jail

The original territorial jail downstairs is a must-see—the dark, tiny cells were state-of-the-art in 1886! The upstairs is a bit more civilized, displaying a stagecoach, 19th-century mining equipment, historic

photographs, and early ski gear. You'll also see an exhibit describing the destruction that fires wrought on the town over the years. The museum also houses a visitor center. Allow about 1½ hours.

528 Main St. ✆ **435/615-9559.** www.parkcityhistory.org. Free admission. Mon–Sat 10am–7pm; Sun noon–6pm. Main St. Trolley.

SHOPPING

Historic Main Street is lined with galleries, boutiques, and a wide variety of shops, with transportation conveniently provided by the Main Street Trolley. You won't find many bargains here, but prices aren't too far out of line for a tourist and ski town, and are downright reasonable when compared to places like Aspen and Santa Fe.

Flat Rabbet Gallery, 421 Main St. (✆ **435/649-2155**), specializes in antique posters, many from Europe, plus all the official Olympic posters since 1924. They also carry a variety of antique winter prints, both European and local. It's Christmas year-round at nearby **Christmas on Main Street,** 442 Main St. (✆ **435/645-8115**), with a good selection of ornaments and candles, a variety of Santas, and numerous other goodies. **No Place Like Home,** Park City Plaza at Bonanza Drive and Prospector Avenue (✆ **435/649-9700**), is the place to go for kitchen and home accessories. Choose from glassware, gadgets, gourmet coffee beans, bed and bath items, and lots more.

Bargain hunters will want to head to the **Factory Stores at Park City,** 6699 N. Landmark Dr. (✆ **435/645-7078**). From downtown Park City, take Utah 224 north to I-80, but don't get on; instead, go west on the south frontage road to the mall. Among the best outlet malls we've seen, this place houses more than 60 stores, including Banana Republic, Carter's Childrenswear, Eddie Bauer, Gap, KB Toys, Levi's, Liz Claiborne, Nike, Old Navy, Polo Ralph Lauren, Samsonite, and Tommy Hilfiger. There's plenty of parking, including room for RVs.

WHERE TO STAY

The Park City area offers a wide variety of places to stay, and it's probably home to the largest portion of the state's deluxe accommodations. Even some of the most luxurious properties, however, lack air-conditioning; at this elevation—6,900 feet in Park City and higher in the mountains—it's seldom needed.

Among the franchise properties in Park City are the **Best Western Landmark Inn,** 6560 N. Landmark Dr., Park City, UT 84098 (✆ **800/548-8824** or 435/649-7300), with rates for two from $69 to $169; **Hampton Inn and Suites,** 6609 N. Landmark Dr., Park City, UT 84098 (✆ **800/426-7866** or 435/645-0900), with rates of $71 to $199 for two; **Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites,** 1501 W. Ute Blvd., Park City, UT 84098 (✆ **800/465-4392** or 435/658-1600), with rates of $79 to $199 for two; and **Radisson Inn,** 2121 Park Ave., Park City, UT 84098 (✆ **800/649-5012** or 435/649-5000), with rates of $79 to $249 for two.

Tips A Helping Hand for Room Reservations

Although it's possible to book reservations directly with individual lodges, many people find it more convenient to go the one-stop shopping route, making all their arrangements directly with one of the resorts (see contact information earlier in this chapter under "Skiing the Park City Area Resorts").

Rates are almost always higher—sometimes dramatically so—during ski season, and rates during Christmas week can be absurd. You'll find the best bargains in spring and fall. Sales and lodging taxes in Park City total just over 10%. Pets are not allowed, unless otherwise noted.

AT DEER VALLEY RESORT

Goldener Hirsch Inn ★★ This château-style inn combines warm hospitality with European charm reminiscent of the inn's sister hotel in Salzburg, the Hotel Goldener Hirsch. Austrian antiques dot the common areas and decorate the walls. Guest rooms are elegantly furnished with hand-painted and -carved Austrian furniture, king-size beds with down comforters, and minibars stocked with snacks and nonalcoholic beverages. Suites boast wood-burning fireplaces and small private balconies. The excellent restaurant is Austrian in decor, and features international cuisine. In summer, you can dine outdoors on the flower-filled deck.

7570 Royal St. East, Silver Lake Village, Deer Valley (P.O. Box 859), Park City, UT 84060. ✆ **800/252-3373** or 435/649-7770. Fax 435/649-7901. www.goldenerhirschinn.com. 20 units. Winter (including continental breakfast) $250–$975 double; summer $100–$250 double. AE, MC, V. Closed mid-Apr to mid-June and Oct–Nov. **Amenities:** Restaurant (American); activities desk. *In room:* Cable TV, dataport, minibar, hair dryer, iron.

Stein Eriksen Lodge ★★★ This luxurious, full-service lodge offers a warm and friendly atmosphere. Opened in 1982 under the direction of Stein Eriksen, the Norwegian 1952 Olympic gold medalist, the hotel retains the Scandinavian decor and charm of his original plan. The lobby is most impressive, with a magnificent three-story stone fireplace fronted by an elegant seating area. There are 13 rooms in the main lodge, with the remaining units in nearby buildings. The connecting sidewalks are heated, and the grounds are beautifully landscaped, with aspen trees, manicured lawns, and flowers cascading over rock gardens and retaining walls. The spacious deluxe rooms, each individually decorated, contain a king-size or queen-size bed, plenty of closet space, a whirlpool tub, vaulted ceiling, and tasteful, solid wood furniture; suites have full kitchens. The one- to five-bedroom suites come with all sorts of amenities. The three large mountain chalet-style town-house suites each have a stone fireplace, full kitchen with service for eight, and private deck. Rooms receive newspaper delivery, turndown service, and twice-daily maid service in winter and VCR/DVD players are standard in every room. There are nature trails, a conference center, a ballroom, secretarial service, and valet parking.

The lodge offers two dining venues. The **Glitretind Restaurant** (p. 155) serves three meals daily (New American). **Troll Hallen Lounge,** open from 11:30am to midnight, offers an extensive beverage service and light meals, with hors d'oeuvres or fresh shellfish from the oyster bar available for après-ski.

Stein Way (P.O. Box 3177), Park City, UT 84060. ✆ **800/453-1302** or 435/649-3700. Fax 435/649-5825. www.steinlodge.com. 170 units. Winter (including buffet breakfast) $700–$1,000 double, from $1,310 suite; mid-Apr to late Nov $200–$225 double, from $275 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants (New American); outdoor heated pool; exercise room; full-service spa; Jacuzzi; sauna; concierge; business center w/secretarial services and conference room; 24-hr. room service; in-room massage; babysitting; dry cleaning; complimentary Wi-Fi network. *In room:* Cable TV w/VCR/DVD player, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

IN PARK CITY

Chateau Aprés Lodge *Value* For those on a budget, this lodge is a good option close to the slopes—150 yards away, to be exact. It looks like a Swiss Alps–style lodge from the outside—simple but attractive. Rooms are basic and clean, each with a queen-size bed or a double and a single, plus a small hide-a-bed and a private shower-only

bathroom. The separate men's and women's dorms each have a shared bathroom. The entire facility is nonsmoking.

1299 Norfolk Ave. (P.O. Box 579), Park City, UT 84060. ✆ **800/357-3556** or 435/649-9372. Fax 435/649-5963. www.chateauapres.com. 32 units. Winter $90 double; summer $50 double; dorm rooms $30 per bed. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. *In room:* TV.

Hotel Park City ★★★ Opening January 2003, this instantly became one of the most posh places to hang your hat in the area, if not the entire state. Drawing inspiration from the grand lodges of the national park system, the brain trust behind Hotel Park City spared no expense, from the masculine guest rooms, all with sublime mountain views, to the year-round pool in the central courtyard. Half of the suites are located in the main lodge, with the rest in 10 newer structures on the fringe of the Park City Golf Course (the clubhouse is in the hotel and transforms into a cross-country center come winter). The rooms all feature king-size beds, two TVs, kitchenettes, washers and dryers, and Western decor; the bathrooms are superb, with big jetted tubs and separate three-headed showers. There's also a top-rate spa and a new Park City Mountain Resort lift on the way to the property come late 2006.

2001 Park Ave. (P.O. Box 683120), Park City, UT 84068. ✆ **435/200-2000.** Fax 435/940-5001. www.hotelparkcity.com. 100 suites. Winter $299–$999 double; summer $1,599–$3,000 governor's or presidential suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (contemporary American); lounge; outdoor heated pool; outdoor Jacuzzi; sauna; spa; mountain bike rental; concierge; courtesy shuttle; 24-hr. room service; in-room massage; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, cable TV w/DVD player, dataport, kitchenette, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron, safe.

Old Town Guest House ★ *finds* This cozy little B&B is perfect for outdoor enthusiasts—the innkeeper is a backcountry ski guide in winter and avid hiker and biker in summer—and affordable to boot. The inn is within easy walking distance of both the Park City Mountain Resort and Main Street. The delightfully homey living room retains its original 1910 fireplace. The decor is country, with lodgepole pine furniture and hardwood floors throughout, but as with most historic bed-and-breakfasts, each guest room is unique. Treasure Hollow has its own entrance, queen-size bed, phone, and private bathroom with shower. McConky's Suite, upstairs, contains a queen-size bed in one room and bunk beds in another, a whirlpool tub, shower, and phone. Two small rooms in back have private toilets and sinks, but share a shower. Guests are welcome to use the outdoor deck and Jacuzzi. The hearty breakfasts served here will sustain your energy throughout a day of hiking, biking, or skiing.

1011 Empire Ave. (P.O. Box 162), Park City, UT 84060. ✆ **800/290-6423,** ext. 3710, or 435/649-2642. Fax 435/649-3320. www.oldtownguesthouse.com. 4 units. Winter (including breakfast) $109–$250 double; summer $79–$119 double. AE, MC, V. **Amenities:** Jacuzzi; Wi-Fi network. *In room:* TV/VCR/DVD player in most rooms, some no phone.

Silver Queen Hotel ★★ Park City's only true boutique hotel, the Silver Queen, has an enviable location on Main Street—in a 1985 replica of a historic building—and style to spare. With hallways clad in reproduction Victorian wallpaper and leopard-spotted carpets, you know the rooms are going to be creative, and they are, coming in four distinct styles (Asian, Whimsical, Mountain, Urban) that are the brainchild of owner Jana Potter, a local interior designer and real estate player. All rooms have one or two bedrooms, unique touches, and eye-catching decor, with DSL, cordless phones, fully equipped kitchens, big TVs, fireplaces, and washer/dryer units. Best of all is the rooftop deck, with a bar, hot tub, and superb views.

632 Main St. (P.O. Box 2391), Park City, UT 84060. ✆ **800/447-6423.** www.silverqueenhotel.com. 12 suites. Winter $110–$270 double; summer $70–$130 double. Rates include breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor Jacuzzi; concierge. *In room:* A/C, cable TV w/DVD player, fax, dataport (DSL), kitchen, hair dryer, iron.

Washington School Inn ★ Housed in an 1889 sandstone schoolhouse that's nestled against the Wasatch Mountains, this lovely country inn has managed to preserve its original charm even though it's now completely modernized. The exterior has been faithfully restored to its late-19th-century appearance, and the interior has been reorganized to better meet the requirements of an inn while remaining true to its historical roots. Rooms are individually decorated with antiques and reproductions from different periods. All units have air-conditioning and tub/shower combos. Two suites have wood-burning fireplaces.

Facilities include a whirlpool tub and lounge area, a sauna, and a bicycle storage area and ski lockers with outside access. High-speed wireless Internet service is available throughout the inn. A lovely summer garden and patio area have recently been added. The inn provides a full breakfast buffet each morning, afternoon tea in summer, and hearty après-ski refreshments in winter.

543 Park Ave. (P.O. Box 536), Park City, UT 84060. ✆ **800/824-1672** or 435/649-3808. Fax 435/649-3802. www.washingtonschoolinn.com. 15 units. Winter $145–$265 double, $245–$410 suite; summer $95–$150 double, $150–$175 suite. Rates include breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Jacuzzi; sauna; activities desk. *In room:* A/C, cable TV, Wi-Fi, dataport, hair dryer.

WHERE TO DINE

For a smallish town, Park City has a wonderful selection of very good restaurants. Several menu guides are available free at the visitor centers. **Albertson's Food & Drug,** 1800 Park Ave. (✆ **435/649-6134;** www.albertsons.com), has an excellent salad bar, deli, and bakery, and is a good choice for stocking up on groceries before heading to a condo or into the mountains. Two-for-one main courses are often available at Park City's restaurants, especially in the off season; check the *Park Record* for information and coupons.

For coffee, baked, goods, and Internet access, we like **Alpine Internet,** 738 Lower Main St. (✆ **435/649-0051;** www.alpineinternet.net), and **Bad Ass Coffee,** 651 Park Ave. (✆ **435/655-9811**).

Cafe Terigo ★ EUROPEAN/CONTINENTAL This upscale eatery is a good choice when you want innovative cuisine in a classy atmosphere. In fine weather, you can dine outdoors under a large umbrella; otherwise, sit in the simple yet elegant European-style cafe, which is outfitted with brocade upholstered booths, white tablecloths, fresh flowers, and wrought-iron chandeliers. The lunch menu offers burgers and a variety of sandwiches, such as a grilled vegetable sandwich, composed of sweet onions, zucchini, mushrooms, roasted red peppers, and provolone cheese on homemade focaccia. Dinner brings such main courses as herb-encrusted Utah rainbow trout; grilled flank steak with garlic mashed potatoes and a wild mushroom sauce; and baked halibut with a corn pancake, served on a bed of artichoke hearts and asparagus. There's also a variety of pastas and unusual pizzas with toppings such as shrimp and artichoke hearts. The cafe serves a mean lemonade and offers espresso and full liquor service.

424 Main St. ✆ **435/645-9555.** www.cafeterigo.com. Main courses $11–$15 lunch; $16–$29 dinner. AE, MC, V. Daily 11:30am–2:30pm and 5:30–10pm. Closed Sun spring–fall. Main St. Trolley.

The Claim Jumper Steak House ★ STEAK/RIBS/SEAFOOD This three-story brick-and-masonry building opened in 1913 as the New Park Hotel, where all meals, including Sunday dinner, were 50¢. Prices are a bit higher now, but red-meat eaters will find that dinner at this locally popular Western-style restaurant is well worth the cost. Decor here is elegant Old West saloon, with warm earth tones, dark wood trim, and lofty ceilings. All steaks are charbroiled over an open flame. We especially recommend

the prime rib (11 or 16 oz.) and the baseball steak—a super-thick center cut sirloin steak. The Claim Jumper is also the place to come for thick buffalo steaks. Other options include Utah trout, king crab, baby back ribs, and the daily pasta special. All dinners come with a huge salad, hot bread, and your choice of potato. While this is the original (established 1973), there are similar Claim Jumper restaurants in St. George and Heber City, Utah, but the three Utah Claim Jumpers are not affiliated with the Claim Jumper chain found in California and other states. Full liquor service is available.

573 Main St. ✆ **435/649-8051.** www.claimjumperutah.com. Main courses $15–$30. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Daily 5–10pm. Main St. Trolley.

The Eating Establishment ★ *Kids* AMERICAN The Eating Establishment, probably the oldest continuously operating restaurant on Park City's historic Main Street (since 1972), is casual and comfortable, a solid choice for families or anyone who wants a heaping serving of comfort food at a reasonable price. The dining room is accented with brick and light wood, fireplaces, and scenic photos of Utah. The enclosed patio was recently remodeled in an airy Southwest style. The extensive menu features breakfast until 4pm (a variety of omelets, skillet dishes, eggs, Belgian waffles, fruit-filled crepes, and lox and bagels). Lunch choices, served from 11am until closing, include wonderful charbroiled burgers, fish and chips, salads, a variety of sandwiches, and barbecued pork, beef, or chicken. Dinners are served from 5pm, with choices including salads, excellent barbecued baby back ribs, a certified black Angus strip steak, several pasta selections, and fresh seafood specials. Desserts, such as the raspberry chocolate torte, mud pie, and New York–style cheesecake are made in-house. Full liquor service is available.

317 Main St. ✆ **435/649-8284.** Main courses $6–$11 breakfast and lunch, $8–$23 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily 8am–10pm. Closed 3:30–5pm on weekdays spring–fall. Main St. Trolley.

Glitretind Restaurant ★★★ NEW AMERICAN Located in the elegant Stein Eriksen Lodge (p. 152), this equally stylish restaurant is our pick for the very best dining in the Park City area, and possibly the entire state. The Glitretind serves innovative, impeccably prepared meals in a modern, airy dining room with views of the spectacular Wasatch Mountains. The menu changes with the seasons, and reflects the New American style of executive chef Zane Holmquist. Breakfast offerings include French toast, pancakes, a fruit plate, and omelets; for lunch choose a soup, salad, sandwich, or full meal. At lunch and dinner, Stein's Wild Game Chili, with wild boar, buffalo, and elk, is a stalwart on the ever-changing menu, which usually offers an array of creative preparations of seafood, steaks, Utah lamb, and other game dishes. The restaurant has an excellent wine list and also offers full liquor service.

Stein Eriksen Lodge, Deer Valley. ✆ **435/649-3700.** www.steinlodge.com. Reservations requested. Main courses $10–$20 breakfast, $8–$18 lunch, $22–$47 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 7–10am and 11:30am–2:30pm; brunch Sun 10:30am–2:30pm; daily 6–9pm. Bus: Deer Valley Loop.

Grappa Italian Restaurant ★★ ITALIAN At this elegant, award-winning restaurant, everything is made from scratch, using the freshest herbs and vegetables available—preparing the tomato sauce alone requires cases of roma tomatoes each day. In a century-old building at the top of Main Street, Grappa's feels like a Tuscan farmhouse. The restaurant has three floors, with a small patio on the ground floor and a larger second-floor deck with a delightful view of historic Main Street and the surrounding mountains. Baskets of fresh fruits and vegetables decorate the dining area.

The menu changes frequently, but popular dishes often include spaghetti with Italian sausage and red and yellow peppers; lemon-baked spring chicken served with green olives, cherry tomatoes, baby potatoes, and a zucchini tartlet; and pan-seared king salmon with fennel, spinach, tomatoes, and a creamy portobello risotto. The meats, such as the filet mignon with wild mushrooms, are seasoned in the style of southern French and Italian cooking, then grilled or rotisseried over a wood-burning flame. There's an excellent wine list, as well as full liquor service.

151 Main St. ✆ **435/645-0636.** www.grapparestaurant.com. Reservations required. Main courses $22–$34. AE, DISC, MC, V. Winter daily 5–10pm; summer Wed–Mon 5:30–10pm. May close several weeks in Nov and Apr. Main St. Trolley.

Purple Sage ★★ AMERICAN Serving what they call "American Western cuisine," this upscale dinner restaurant, which opened in 2003, is owned and operated by the same people who do such a great job at nearby Cafe Terigo (reviewed at the beginning of this section). The atmosphere is what we might describe as "refined casual Western," and the menu offers innovative and sometimes fascinating variations on American favorites. Beef eaters will especially enjoy the filet, which has a spicy rub and is served with bacon-wrapped asparagus and sweet corn relish. We also recommend the grilled shrimp in chipotle-and-leek sauce, served on golden polenta cakes; and the sautéed chicken and sweet peppers in tequila lime cream sauce on a bed of fettuccine. The restaurant offers full liquor service.

434 Main St. ✆ **435/655-9505.** www.purplesageparkcity.com. Main courses $18–$29 dinner. AE, MC, V. Daily 5:30–10pm. Closed Sun in spring and fall. Main St. Trolley.

350 Main ★★ CONTEMPORARY/FUSION A rich, romantic setting for an excellent meal, 350 Main is one of Park City's most reliable eateries. That's not to say it isn't creative—Chef Michael DeClerc's preparations are adventurous and bold, dabbling in French and Asian traditions while coming up with distinct and bold flavors. For starters, the "Tower of Ahi" is one of the most strikingly delicate presentations I've seen anywhere, and the roasted veggie falafels are also recommended. The main courses run the gamut from black pepper–crusted venison medallions to the Ono-Ono (Pacific ono prepared two ways: grilled and wasabi-seared). For dessert, the rich mocha pot au crème tantalizes the taste buds—the creation is topped with a meringue born of the improbable marriage of chipotle and cinnamon. Full liquor service (including a wine list beloved by *Wine Spectator*) is available.

350 Main St. ✆ **435/649-3140.** www.350main.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $24–$32. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily 6–10pm. Main St. Trolley.

Wahso—An Asian Grill ★ ASIAN This distinctively elegant restaurant boasts an Art Deco and Victorian interior furnished with authentic Asian screens, an ebony fireplace, and carvings and pictures from around the world. The food is equally unique, an amalgamation of traditional Asian ingredients with French cooking style, which gives rise to deliciously light and healthy offerings. Entrees change frequently, but might include specialties such as Szechuan-style grilled filet mignon, soy- and ginger-glazed sea bass, and spicy Balinese stir-fry of shrimp. Be sure to save room for the dessert specialty—crème brûlée in a coconut shell. Premium sake, imported beer, and an extensive wine list are available.

577 Main St. ✆ **435/615-0300.** www.wahso.com. Main courses $24–$35. AE, DISC, MC, V. Winter daily 5–10pm; spring–fall Sun–Thurs 6–9pm, Fri–Sat 6–10pm. Main St. Trolley.

Wasatch Brew Pub AMERICAN Views of the brewing area and Main Street dominate the scene in this popular brewpub, which courts controversy with such beers as Polygamy Porter (tagline: "Why have just one?"). Beyond the liquid refreshments, you can get well-prepared pub grub for lunch, including fish and chips, burgers, beer-battered shrimp, various pizzas, and cheese steaks. The dinner menu offers many of the same lunch items but adds some more adventurous selections, such as fresh Utah trout with roasted garlic herb butter, pine nut–crusted salmon with basil sauce, and rack of New Zealand lamb with mint sauce. You'll find "The Cantina" upstairs, where, in addition to the brewery's own award-winning beers, full liquor service is available.

250 Main St. ✆ **435/649-0900.** www.wasatchbeers.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses $6.50–$8.95 lunch; $7.50–$18 dinner. AE, MC, V. Daily 11am–10pm (bar until midnight); kitchen closes at 9:30pm Sun–Thurs spring–fall. Main St. Trolley.

MOVIES, MUSIC & MORE IN THE MOUNTAINS: SUNDANCE & THE PERFORMING ARTS

For 10 days every January, the Hollywood glitterati and their accompanying paparazzi descend on Park City in droves for the star-studded **Sundance Film Festival** (✆ **877/733-7829** or 435/940-7096; www.sundance.org). The slate includes cutting-edge indies as well as blockbuster premieres, and has grown into the top festival of its kind in the country. (It's also a great time to hit the slopes, since everyone else is jammed like sardines into the theaters!)

Throughout the summer, **free concerts** are presented each Wednesday from 6 to 8pm at City Park. Past **Sundance films** are also screened in City Park on summer Friday nights. The **Park City Film Series** (www.parkcityfilmseries.com) screens a different independent movie every weekend at the Park City Library for $6.

The **Deer Valley Music Festival** (✆ **801/533-6683;** www.deervalleymusicfestival.org) takes place in July and August. The program includes classical masterpieces like Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture,* plus jazz and popular works by composers such as Gilbert and Sullivan and John Philip Sousa. There are also concerts by acts such as Air Supply and the Gatlin Brothers. The stage faces the mountainside; bring a chair or blanket and relax under the stars. Call the box office for schedule and ticket information.

The **Park City & SLC International Music Festival** (✆ **435/649-5309;** www.pcmusicfestival.com) presents classical performances in the summer and fall. Classical musicians from around the world attend, and programs feature soloists, chamber music, and full orchestras.

The 1,300-seat **Eccles Center for the Performing Arts,** 1750 Kearns Blvd. (✆ **435/655-3114;** www.ecclescenter.org), presents a wide variety of top national performing arts companies. Recent productions and concerts have included the musical satire *Forbidden Hollywood* and blues legend B. B. King.

The **Historic Egyptian Theatre,** 328 Main St. (✆ **435/649-9371;** www.egyptiantheatrecompany.org), was built in 1926 in the popular Egyptian Revival style. Originally used for vaudeville and silent films, this was the first theater in Park City to offer the "new talking pictures." Today, the Egyptian is the home of the Egyptian Theatre Company, which presents a variety of dramas, comedies, musicals, and other productions throughout the year.

PARK CITY AFTER DARK: THE CLUB SCENE

Known as Utah's "Sin City," Park City probably has the best nightlife in the state. If you're looking for drinking and dancing, join a private club (memberships are available

on a short-term basis, usually for $4, and membership entitles you to bring several guests). The following are busiest during ski season, and generally have fewer nights of live music at other times.

The Spur, 350½ Main St. (✆ **435/615-1618;** www.350main.com), is a contemporary Western joint that's smoke-free and has regular live music. **Cisero's,** downstairs at 306 Main St. (✆ **435/649-6800**), with a large dance floor, hosts good bands. **J.B. Mulligan's Club & Pub,** 804 Main St. (✆ **435/658-0717**), also has live music, including a variety of jazz, reggae, bluegrass, and funk; and you can get food—try their peppercorn burger—between 5 and 10pm. Another nightspot for live jazz, funk, or acoustic is **Mother Urban's Ratskeller,** 625 Main St. (✆ **435/615-7200**). The **No Name Saloon,** 447 Main St. (✆ **435/649-6667**), another fun place to drink, is old and oddly furnished.

Harry O's, 427 Main St. (✆ **435/647-9494**), is very popular, with a huge dance floor and live band or DJ nightly. Romantic and dimly lit, **Bacchus Wine Bar,** 442 Main St. (✆ **435/940-9463**), pours 100 different wines by the glass and serves a scrumptious menu of light fare.

3 Side Trips from Park City: Heber Valley Historic Railroad, Strawberry Reservoir & Some Great State Parks

The southern Wasatch Front isn't just about skiing. The wonderful lakes and parks near Park City are some of Utah's best-kept secrets. To the northeast is Rockport State Park, a man-made lake that attracts watersports enthusiasts, from swimmers to ice-fishermen, year-round. Not far from Park City is Jordanelle State Park, which is a great boating lake, and Wasatch Mountain State Park, which is Utah's second-largest state park and a major golf destination. Heading southeast from Park City, you'll reach Heber City, whose main claim to fame is its historic steam train. A bit farther afield along U.S. 40 is pristine Strawberry Reservoir, one of our favorite water playgrounds.

HEBER VALLEY HISTORIC RAILROAD

For those who love old trains, who want to see first-hand some of the history of the American West, or who simply enjoy beautiful scenery, we heartily recommend a ride on the **Heber Valley Historic Railroad** ★★. This 100-year-old excursion train provides an exciting step back into the past, while also offering a fun ride through a delightful diversity of landscapes. Excursions ranging from 1½ to 3 hours are offered on both steam and vintage diesel trains, and a number of special-event trips are scheduled, including murder mysteries, sunset excursions, and the "Polar Express" Christmas trip. Train cars have restrooms, snack bars, and souvenir shops.

The views along the shores of Deer Creek Lake and through beautiful Provo Canyon are wonderful at any time, but fall is one of the prettiest seasons to ride the train, as the mountainsides are decorated with the rich hues of changing leaves—the reds of oak and maple, and the golds of cottonwood and aspen stand out against the ever-present greens of piñon, juniper, spruce, and pine.

The train depot is in Heber City, 20 miles south of Park City via Utah 248 and U.S. 40. Round-trip tickets cost $20 to $26 for adults, $12 to $15 for children 3 to 12, and $15 to $21 for seniors 60 and older. Rates are higher for special events, and one-way tickets are also available (call for rates). There are four daily runs in summer, and fewer the rest of year. The ticket office is open daily from 9am to 5pm. For information, contact

Heber Valley Historic Railroad, 450 S. 600 West, Heber City, UT 84032 (✆ **435/654-5601,** or 801/581-9980 from Salt Lake City; www.hebervalleyrr.org).

ROCKPORT STATE PARK

Rockport, one of the Utah State Park system's man-made lakes, is a fun destination offering a full range of outdoor activities, from windsurfing to wildlife watching. In the winter, add ice-fishing and cross-country skiing. Facilities at the half-mile-wide, 3-mile-long lake include a marina, a boat ramp and courtesy docks, a picnic area, and camping spots in a variety of settings. The Wanship Dam, at the north end of the lake, is an important water-storage and flood-control dam on the Weber River, which has its headwaters high in the Uinta Mountains.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE From Park City, head east on I-80 for about 11 miles to exit 156, then go 5 miles south on Utah 32 along the western bank of Rockport Lake to the access road. The park entrance is at the lake's southern tip. Turn east to the park entrance, and then follow the road around to the north along the eastern bank.

INFORMATION, FEES & REGULATIONS Contact **Rockport State Park,** 9040 N. Utah 302, Peoa, UT 84061-9702 (✆ **435/336-2241;** www.stateparks.utah.gov). Open year-round, the park has a day-use fee of $7 per vehicle. Pets are allowed, but must be confined or leashed.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING Groomed cross-country ski trails run through the open sagebrush, and these offer a better chance of seeing wildlife than the more forested areas in the surrounding national forest.

HIKING & WILDLIFE WATCHING A 4-mile round-trip hike takes off from Juniper Campground. This easy, relatively flat walk among juniper and sagebrush offers an opportunity to glimpse mule deer, yellow-belly marmots, badgers, raccoons, weasels, skunks, and ground squirrels. Less visible are elk, moose, coyote, bobcat, and cougar. Birds abound, and sometimes you can spot Western grebes, Canada geese, whistling swans, great blue herons, and golden and bald eagles. More frequently seen are ducks, red-tailed hawks, magpies, scrub jays, and hummingbirds.

WATER ACTIVITIES The day-use area, located about 3½ miles north of the park entrance, offers the best swimming. The lake is also popular for boating, windsurfing, water-skiing, sailing, kayaking, and fishing. Both the lake and river are home to rainbow and brown trout, yellow perch, and small-mouth bass. Unfortunately, there are no equipment outfitters nearby.

CAMPING

Eighty-six RV and tent campsites are located in six areas around the lake. The first campground is to the right of the access road, along the Weber River rather than the lake. Sites are shady and provide easy access to a trail along the river, handy for fishermen. The remainder of the sites lie between the road and the lake, along its eastern bank, and most have vault toilets only. One campground, Juniper, has 36 sites with water and electric hookups, a dump station, and modern restrooms. Sites cost $8 to $17. The park generally fills on weekends, but reservations (with a $7 nonrefundable fee) can be made by calling ✆ **800/322-3770** or through the state parks website.

JORDANELLE STATE PARK ★★

Two recreation areas provide access to **Jordanelle Reservoir** in the beautiful Wasatch Mountains. Both areas are great for boating, fishing, picnicking, and camping. The reservoir is shaped rather like a boomerang, with the dam at the elbow. The Perimeter Trail connects the highly developed **Hailstone Recreation Site** to the more primitive **Rock Cliff Recreation Site.** Hailstone is on the terraced peninsula poking into the upper arm just above the dam; Rock Cliff is at the southeastern tip of the lower arm of the reservoir. Hailstone's camping and picnicking areas face the widest part of the reservoir, which is perfect for speedboats, water-skiing, and personal watercraft. The narrow arm reaching down to Rock Cliff is designated for low-speed water use. Trails—27 miles of them—circle the reservoir and connect to other area trails. They're open to hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE From Park City, head east on Kearns Boulevard (Utah 248) for about 3¾ miles; at U.S. 40, go southeast 4 miles to exit 8 and follow the entrance road east into Hailstone. From Heber City, take U.S. 40 northwest about 6 miles. For Rock Cliff, follow U.S. 40 northwest from Heber City for about 4 miles, then head east onto Utah 32 for about 6 miles to the entrance. From Park City, continue southeast on U.S. 40 past Hailstone for about 2 miles to Utah 32, then east about 6 miles to the entrance.

INFORMATION, FEES & REGULATIONS Contact **Jordanelle State Park,** Utah 319 no. 515 Box 4, Heber City, UT 84032 (✆ **435/649-9540;** www.stateparks.utah.gov). Stop at the **visitor center** at Hailstone or the **Nature Center** at Rock Cliff, a nature-oriented visitor center, for information and trail maps. The exhibit room in the visitor center at Hailstone presents an overview of human history in the area.

The park is open year-round at Hailstone, and May through September at Rock Cliff. Day-use hours in summer are 6am to 10pm; October through March, 8am to 5pm. The visitor centers are open April through September from 9am to 6pm. The day-use fee is $9 per vehicle.

In order to protect the abundance of wildlife, particularly birds, pets are not allowed at Rock Cliff. They're welcome at Hailstone, but must be confined or leashed. Bicycling is permitted on established public roads, in parking areas, and on the Perimeter Trail.

HAILSTONE RECREATION SITE

At Hailstone, you'll find three camping areas and a group pavilion, along with a swimming beach and a picnic area that's available for day use. The 76-slip marina offers camping, picnicking supplies, boat rentals, a small restaurant, an amphitheater, boat ramps, a wheelchair-accessible fishing deck, and a fish-cleaning station.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS A concessionaire at **Jordanelle Marina** (✆ **435/655-9919;** www.jordanelle.com) offers ski boats (about $225 for a half-day) and fishing boats (about $100 for a half-day).

CAMPING Hailstone's three camping areas have walk-in tent sites, RV/tent sites without hookups, and RV sites with water and electric hookups. Facilities include modern restrooms, showers, a small coin-op laundry, and a playground. Cost is $14 to $17. For reservations (with a $7 fee), call ✆ **800/322-3770.**

ROCK CLIFF RECREATION SITE

Rock Cliff contains three walk-in camping areas; picnic tables; the **Nature Center,** which offers maps, environmental programs, and exhibits on the various habitats of

the area and how man's activities impact them; and the **Jordanelle Discovery Trail,** a boardwalk interpretive trail that winds through the Provo River riparian terrain.

BIRDING **Rock Cliff** offers great opportunities for **birding** ★, with more than 160 species either living here or passing through, and eagles and other raptors nesting in the area. Situated as it is among numerous riparian wetlands, Rock Cliff is designed to protect these sensitive habitats. Trails and boardwalks traverse the area, and bridges cross the waterways at four points, enabling you to get quite close to a variety of wetland life without inadvertently doing any harm to their habitats.

CAMPING You'll find three walk-in campgrounds with 50 sites and two modern restrooms with showers. These sites are more nature-oriented than those at Hailstone and are scattered over 100 acres, providing great privacy. Cost is $14 to $17. The site doesn't have any areas for RVs.

WASATCH MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

The second-largest of Utah's state parks (after Antelope Island), at 21,592 acres, Wasatch Mountain State Park is also the state's most developed state park, and among its most popular. This year-round destination is well maintained, well serviced, and easy to enjoy, and it just keeps getting better. This is a terrific golf and camping destination, and trails are continually being expanded to meet the demands of hikers and mountain bikers. In winter, a network of groomed cross-country skiing and snowmobiling trails lead from the park into the surrounding forest, and both cross-country ski and snowmobile rentals are available. Wasatch Mountain's rangers offer a variety of instructive and interpretive programs. Fall is the best time to visit: The incomparable juxtaposition of rich reds, ochers, and deep evergreens will exceed your wildest imaginings.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE It's about 5½ miles from Heber City to the park: From downtown, turn west on Utah 113 (100 South) to Midway; following signs for the state park, jog north on 200 West, then west on 200 North, and finally north again on Homestead Drive. The visitor center is located on Homestead Drive (where it becomes Snake Creek Rd.), in the park.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER For advance information, contact **Wasatch Mountain State Park,** P.O. Box 10, Midway, UT 84049-0010 (✆ **435/654-1791;** www.stateparks.utah.gov). The visitor center, on Homestead Drive (where it becomes Snake Creek Rd.), also serves as a lounge for golfers. It's open daily from 8am to 5pm and includes a large mountain lodge–style room with comfortable seating. Rangers are on hand to discuss park activities and provide trail maps and other information.

FEES & REGULATIONS The day-use fee is $5 per vehicle. Pets are welcome in the park, but must be confined or leashed.

RANGER PROGRAMS Interpretive programs take place most Friday and Saturday summer nights at the amphitheater, and a junior ranger program is offered Saturday mornings. The stocked pond adjacent to the visitor center provides fishing fun for children under 16 in summer; call for details.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING A 7½-mile Nordic ski track, with both diagonal stride and skating lanes, is laid out on the golf course. Neither dogs nor snowmobiles are allowed on the track, which is open from 8am to 5pm. Another area at the southern

end of the park, which was the 2002 Olympics site for biathlon and cross-country skiing competitions, is available for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, and other nonmotorized winter sports. Cross-country skis are available for rent at the golf course pro shop; cost is $12 for a full day and $8 for a half-day.

GOLF With a USGA-sanctioned 36-hole, par-143 course, golfing is the most popular pastime here. Ten lakes are scattered throughout the tree-lined fairways, and the views of the lovely Heber Valley are grand. Facilities include a full-service pro shop, driving range, practice greens, and a cafe. The course is open daily during daylight hours. Another 36 holes, at the Soldier Hollow Golf Course at the southern end of the park, opened in summer 2004.

Fees on weekdays are $12 for 9 holes, $24 for 18 holes. Weekends and holidays, the fees are $13 and $26, respectively. Pull carts and riding carts are available. Tee times should be reserved (✆ **435/654-0532** or 801/266-0268) the preceding Monday (starting at 7am) for weekends, and the preceding Thursday for weekdays.

HIKING & WILDLIFE WATCHING The **Pine Creek Nature Trail** is just over a mile in length and encompasses three smaller loops. Many songbirds make their homes in the trees along the trail, so watch for Steller's jays, chickadees, wrens, robins, and Western tanagers. You might also see the tracks of mule deer along the creek, where they come to forage. From the large parking area in Pine Creek campground, follow the half-mile trail to the Pine Creek trail head, which lies just north of the Oak Hollow loop. The trail begins at an elevation of 6,100 feet and climbs 220 feet, crossing Pine Creek four times and traversing several boulder ridges. The trail guide describes some of the plants you'll see on this hike. Don't attempt the trail after a rain, as it becomes quite muddy and slick. No bikes or motorized vehicles are allowed. Be sure to take water, a sun hat, and binoculars.

Literature describing the plant and animal life of the park is available at the camp manager's office near the entrance to the campground and at the visitor center.

MOUNTAIN BIKING An 18-mile loop affords great fun for mountain bikes. The road leaves the visitor center and heads west, winding through magnificent wooded country and offering occasional breathtaking views of the valley.

SNOWMOBILING The park's 90 miles of groomed trails, very popular among snowmobilers, take you into Pine Creek, Snake Creek, and American Fork canyons. Warming stations are located at the clubhouse and visitor center.

CAMPING

Four camping loops in the **Pine Creek Campground** provide a total of 139 sites, including about 80 that are off-limits to tenters. All have modern restrooms, and all except Little Deer Creek, the smallest loop, have showers. Some sites are nestled among trees and are quite shady; others are more open. All except Little Deer Creek have paved parking pads, water, electricity, picnic tables, and barbecue grills; some also have sewer hookups. A dump station is located near the entrance to the campground. Camping fees are $11 at Little Deer Creek and $17 to $20 in the other three loops. Reservations (with a $7 nonrefundable reservation fee) are advised and can be made by calling ✆ **800/322-3770** or through the state parks website.

STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR ★★

Located along U.S. 40 in the eastern portion of the Uinta National Forest, the jewel-like Strawberry Reservoir is a terrific water playground offering amazing fishing, as

well as boating, hiking, and mountain biking. It's also great for cross-country skiing, ice-fishing, and snowmobiling in winter.

Utah's premier trout fishery—indeed, one of the premier trout fisheries in the West—Strawberry Reservoir is home to huge cutthroat and rainbow trout and kokanee salmon, so it's no surprise that fishing is the number-one draw. Fishing boats with outboard motors are available at **Strawberry Bay Marina** (✆ **435/548-2261**); call for current rates.

Strawberry Reservoir has four marinas, with the largest at Strawberry Bay. This is the only one that provides year-round services, including a restaurant and lodging at **Strawberry Bay Lodge** (✆ **435/548-2500;** www.strawberrybay.com); the others offer limited services.

Campgrounds are located at each of the four marinas on the reservoir. Sites in the Strawberry Bay and Soldier Creek campgrounds have hookups; Aspen Grove and Renegade do not. The fee is $12 per vehicle. Boat ramps and fish-cleaning facilities are located adjacent to each campground. Reservations can be made for a limited number of designated campsites by contacting the National Recreation Reservation Service (✆ **877/444-6777;** www.reserveusa.com).

To get to Strawberry Reservoir from Heber City, drive 22 miles southeast on U.S. 40 and turn south onto the access road. After about a half-mile, you'll come to the USFS visitor center for Strawberry Reservoir.

For information, contact the **Heber Ranger District,** 2460 S. U.S. 40, P.O. Box 190, Heber City, UT 84032 (✆ **435/654-0470;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta), or stop by the **Strawberry Visitor Center** (✆ **435/548-2321**). Day use is free in some parts of the complex, but there's a $4 fee in most areas.

4 Sundance Resort

14 miles NE of Provo, 50 miles SE of Salt Lake City

Situated in beautiful Provo Canyon, at the base of 12,000-foot Mt. Timpanogos, Sundance is a year-round resort that emphasizes its arts programs as much as its skiing and outdoor activities. That should come as no surprise—it's owned by actor/director Robert Redford, who bought the property in 1969 and named it after his character in the classic film *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.* You might recognize the area: Redford and director Sydney Pollack set their 1972 film *Jeremiah Johnson* here.

The goal for Sundance was to create a place where the outdoors and the arts could come together in a truly unique mountain community, and it seems to be a success. The rustic yet elegant, environmentally friendly retreat is a full-service ski resort in winter. During the summer, you'll find great hiking trails and other outdoor activities, as well as the Sundance Institute, which Redford founded in 1980 to support and encourage independent American filmmaking and playwriting.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE Sundance is less than an hour's drive from Salt Lake City via I-15. From Park City, take U.S. 189 south to Sundance. From Provo, take I-15 to exit 272, go east on Utah 52 for 5½ miles, turn north on U.S. 189 up Provo Canyon for 7 miles, and turn north on Utah 92 for about 2 miles to Sundance. In winter, the road beyond Sundance is often closed by snow.

So You Wanna Be in Pictures: The Sundance Institute

Forget Cannes; forget Hollywood. If you want to be (or at least be up on) the next art-house cinema sensation, go to Utah.

Tired of waiting for the next Great American Novel, many people have traded their reading glasses for tubs of popcorn, and are packing the movie houses to catch the latest work of the new creative hero: the American independent filmmaker. These next Tarantinos have to start somewhere—and that somewhere is, more often than not, the Sundance Film Festival.

For more than 20 years, the hottest independent films have been discovered at this weeklong January event, hosted by Robert Redford's Sundance Institute. (The festival doesn't actually take place at Sundance, however; it's held 30 miles away, in Park City, covered earlier in this chapter.) The festival has seen the rise to glory of many pictures, including *sex, lies, and videotape; Reservoir Dogs; Slacker; Like Water for Chocolate; Hoop Dreams; The Station Agent; The Aristocrats;* and *Napoleon Dynamite*—and that's just the short list.

Hosting the nation's premier annual film festival is only part of the Sundance Institute's role in the world of American cinema. Think you might have what it takes? Then it might be a good idea to plan a summer trip to Sundance to participate in the Institute's Filmmakers Lab.

Since Robert Redford founded the Institute, it has brought some of the finest and most well-respected directors, actors, and producers to Utah each June to serve as advisors while students rehearse, shoot, and edit scenes from their works. Denzel Washington and Glenn Close have lent their services; so have directors Terry Gilliam and Sydney Pollack, producer James L. Brooks, and actor Morgan Freeman. Redford himself even stops by occasionally to lend a hand. Sundance also runs workshops to help writers polish their scripts, directors polish their actors, and producers polish their negotiating skills.

Admission to the festival—as a filmmaker or as an audience member—is nonexclusive; that means you and I can rub shoulders with the rich and famous and up-and-coming. To receive a free guide, or to reserve tickets, contact the **Sundance Institute** (✆ **877/733-7829** or 801/924-0882; www.sundance.org).

A van shuttle service connects Sundance with both Salt Lake International Airport and Provo Airport. Call **Sundance Resort** (see below) for information and to arrange for pick-up.

VISITOR INFORMATION For information on all facilities and activities, plus lodging reservations, contact **Sundance Resort,** R.R. 3 Box A-1, Sundance, UT 84604 (✆ **800/892-1600** or 801/225-4100; fax 801/226-1937; www.sundanceresort.com).

SKIING SUNDANCE

Sundance is known for its quiet, intimate setting and lack of lift lines. It offers runs for all levels—some quite challenging—including several delightfully long cruising trails for novices. The area is gaining a reputation as a good place to learn to ski or snowboard. The two levels of skiing are pretty well separated from each other: The

beginner and some of the intermediate terrain are on the front mountain, whereas the prime blue runs and all of the expert slopes are on the back mountain. The expert crowd will be pleased with the steep glades, precipitous bump runs (due to the general lack of traffic, the mountain never really bumps up too high, though), and untracked snow on the back mountain, where you'll have to work at it to run into another skier.

The terrain is rated 20% beginner, 40% intermediate, and 40% advanced, with a total of 41 runs over 450 skiable acres. One quad and two triple chairlifts, plus a handle tow, serve the mountain, which has a vertical drop of 2,150 feet, from a base elevation of 6,100 feet to the top at 8,250 feet. Sundance is usually open from mid-December to early April, and has state-of-the-art snow-making equipment on the entire front mountain. Lifts operate daily from 9am to 4:30pm.

Bearclaw's Cabin, the only mountaintop day lodge in Utah, offers snacks and hot drinks, as well as stupendous views. **Creekside** day lodge, at the base of the ski area, serves excellent quick lunches during ski season. Equipment rental and sales are available.

LIFT TICKETS Adult all-day lift tickets cost $32 on weekdays, and $44 on weekends and holidays; lift tickets for children 6 to 12 are $20, under 6 ski free, and seniors over 65 pay $12. If you're staying at the resort, the lift ticket is included in your room rate.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **ski school** (✆ **801/225-4140**) at Sundance offers private and group lessons daily, as well as specialized workshops. Two-hour private lessons start at $110; group lessons start at $40 for 2 hours. Learn-to-ski or -snowboard packages, which include a half-day group lesson and an all-day pass, cost $60.

Sundance Kids ski school offers several programs, including group lessons and all-day programs that include supervision, lunch, and instruction. There is no day-care facility.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING & SNOWSHOEING Sundance's excellent **Nordic Center** ★★★ is 1½ miles north of the main Sundance entrance. It has about 21 miles of groomed Nordic and snowshoe trails. Classic, skating, and telemark rentals and lessons are available. Trail passes for adults cost $11 for a full day, or $8 after 2pm. Children 12 and under and seniors over 65 ski free.

WARM-WEATHER FUN

An abundance of warm-weather activities and spectacular scenery make Sundance just as popular a destination in the summer as during the winter. A quad ski lift operates in warm weather (usually from late May through late October), carrying hikers and bikers to upper trails, and offering scenic rides to anyone. Lift rides cost $7, $4 for seniors 65 and older, and are free for children 5 and younger (who must be accompanied by an adult).

FLY-FISHING The **Provo River** provides great fly-fishing just 10 minutes away for rainbow, cutthroat, and German brown trout. Licenses and information are available at the Sundance General Store (p. 166). Sundance offers guided fishing trips, including equipment rentals. Rates start at $155 for group, $195 for private, half-day fly-fishing trips.

HIKING & MOUNTAIN BIKING Sundance is home to a terrific network of close to a dozen trails, some of which connect to the Uinta National Forest, 88 W. 100 North, P.O. Box 1428, Provo, UT 84601 (✆ **801/342-5780;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta). The resort's trails range from hour-long nature walks to all-day affairs, and include three routes to the summit of Mt. Timpanogos.

The **Sundance Nature Trail,** a 1- to 1½-hour round-trip hike, winds through groves of spruce, oak, and maple, and across alpine meadows, before reaching a cascading waterfall. The **Great Western Trail,** one of the Wasatch Front's most spectacular trails, climbs nearly 4,000 feet to some amazing scenic vistas. It starts at the base of Aspen Grove, winds to the crest of North Fork and American Fork canyons, and ends at the top of Alta ski area. This is an 8- to 10-hour round-trip hike.

Mountain bikers will find the mountain trails at Sundance fun and challenging. Bikers can minimize some of the work by taking their bikes up the lift and pedaling down. The mountain biker's trail-use fee is $9, which includes one lift ride; a full-day pass, including unlimited use of the lift, costs $16.

Contact the resort for a comprehensive trail guide.

HORSEBACK RIDING The **Sundance Stables** offer guided mountain rides of 1 hour and up, starting at about $40 per person. Call the main number at Sundance for information.

SHOPPING

The **General Store** at Sundance was the inspiration for the Sundance Catalog; it may have come to you in the mail at some time or another. If so, you'll recognize the American Indian art and jewelry, local crafts, and high-end Southwest-style clothing and outdoor wear that line the shelves. Sundance's eco-sensitive bath-product line, Sundance Farms, is available here as well. You'll also find hiking and fishing apparel and gear (including licenses and rentals) in warm weather, ski accessories in winter, and fresh-baked goodies year-round. The store is open daily from 9am to 9pm.

WHERE TO STAY

Sundance offers standard rooms, studios, and cottage suites that range from $225 to $365 per night, as well as larger mountain suites and several luxury mountain homes that cost from $315 to over $1,000 per night. Each suite is outfitted with well-crafted handmade furnishings that match the rustic luxury of the entire resort, as well as American Indian crafts, stone fireplaces, and outdoor decks; most have fully equipped kitchens. All accommodations come complete with Sundance's own natural bath products—such as eco-sensitive oatmeal soap. Contact the **Sundance Resort,** R.R. 3 Box A-1, Sundance, UT 84604 (✆ **800/892-1600** or 801/225-4100; www.sundanceresort.com) for information and reservations.

WHERE TO DINE

The Sundance restaurants' unique culinary approach stresses the use of natural, seasonal ingredients, and dishes are often prepared with such locally raised products as corn-fed lamb, fresh trout or chicken, and lots of seasonal fruits and vegetables. Dinner reservations are recommended, particularly in season. Full liquor service is available.

The **Tree Room** ★★ (✆ **801/223-4200** for reservations), the resort's most elegant dining room for over 25 years, is the place for relaxing, romantic dinners with wine and candlelight. Decorated with American Indian art and artifacts from Redford's private collection, the rustic room seats diners in cozy booths and at intimate tables. Seasonal menus might include appetizers such as truffled brie tart, spice-roasted duck breast with lentil purée, and grilled pear with balsamic syrup. Entree choices might be herb-crusted rack of lamb or pan-roasted striped bass with a ragout, topped with a mussel sauce. It's open daily from 5pm, with dinner entree prices from $20 to $40.

The **Foundry Grill** (✆ **801/223-4220**), a less formal eatery offering seasonal ranch-style cuisine, serves three meals Monday through Saturday and brunch and dinner on Sunday. Wood is the predominant feature in both decor and food—a wood oven and wood-fired grill and rotisserie are the main cooking methods. Lunch main courses range from $10 to $17; dinner entrees run $12 to $35.

The **Owl Bar** (✆ **801/223-4222**) is just next door. This is the same 1890s bar frequented by Butch Cassidy's Hole-in-the-Wall Gang, moved here from Wyoming—but now locals and resort guests belly up to the Victorian rosewood bar to order their favorite tipple. A limited grill menu is available; it's open from 5pm weekdays and noon weekends.

5 Provo & Environs

45 miles S of Salt Lake City, 258 miles NE of St. George

The second-largest metropolitan area in Utah, **Provo** (elevation 4,500 ft.) and its adjacent communities have a population of over 300,000. The main draw here is Brigham Young University, with its museums, cultural events, and spectator sports. Provo also makes a good base for exploring the nearby mountains, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, and the quite spectacular gardens and other attractions at Thanksgiving Point in nearby Lehi. The Ute Indian tribe reigned here until Mormon leader Brigham Young sent 30 families south from Salt Lake City in March 1849 to colonize the area. Today, the city remains primarily Mormon; many restaurants, stores, and attractions are closed Sundays.

South of Provo lies **Springville,** a town of about 14,000 that likes to refer to itself as "Utah's Art City." Although not a major tourist destination, it boasts one of the state's finest art museums. **Orem,** which abuts Provo on the northwest, is a tech industry hub. Utah Lake State Park, just west of downtown Provo, is great for boating, and the surrounding Wasatch Mountains abound with natural beauty and recreational opportunities.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE Provo and Orem are easily accessible from the north or south by I-15. If you're driving in from the east on I-70, take exit 156 at Green River and follow U.S. 6 northwest to I-15 north.

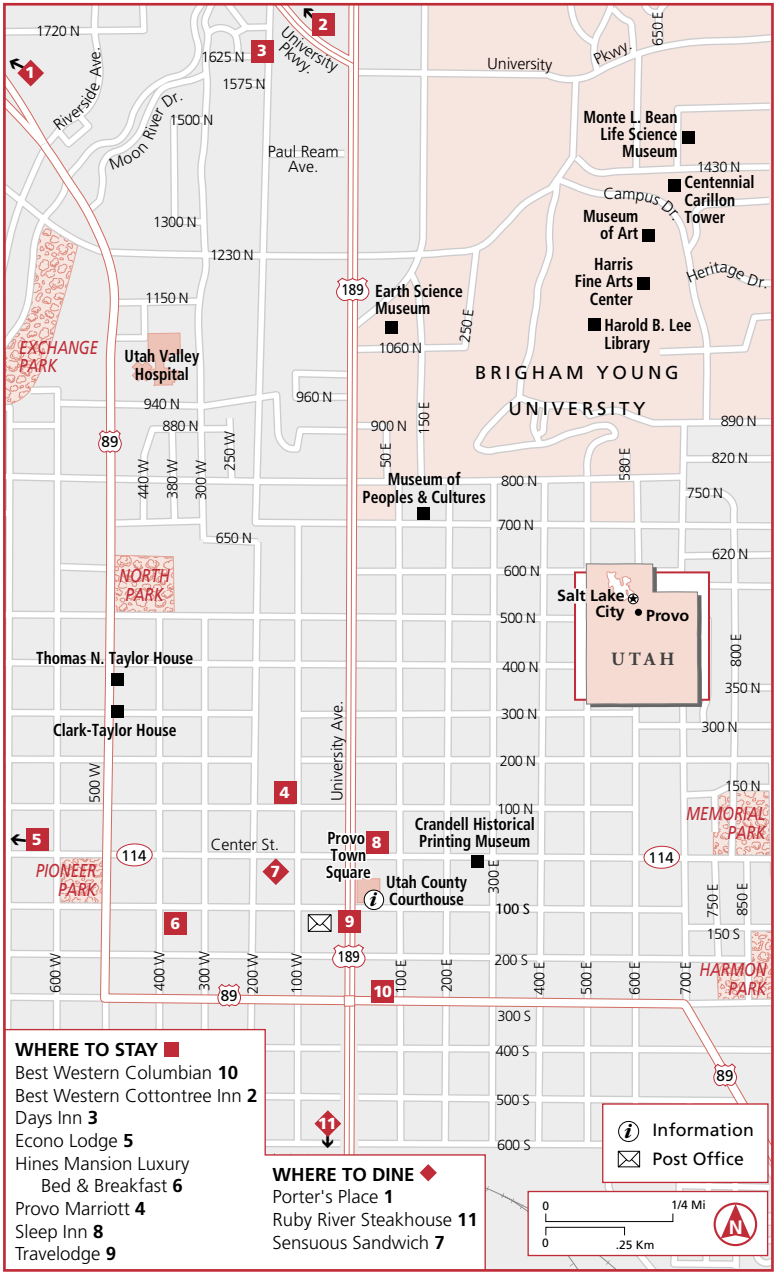
Amtrak (✆ **800/872-7245;** www.amtrak.com) offers passenger service to Provo. The train station is located at 600 South and 300 West.

VISITOR INFORMATION The **Utah County Convention and Visitors Bureau** runs a visitor center at 111 S. University Ave., Provo, UT 84601 (✆ **800/222-8824** or 801/851-2100; www.utahvalley.org/cvb). The visitor center is open 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday; call for weekend hours.

For information on the surrounding national forest, contact the **Uinta National Forest,** Supervisor's Office, 88 W. 100 North, P.O. Box 1428, Provo, UT 84601 (✆ **801/342-5780;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta).

GETTING AROUND The easiest way to get around is by car. The streets are organized in a numbered grid pattern, beginning at the intersection of Center Street and University Avenue in Provo. From here, the blocks increase by 100 in all four directions, such as 100 South, 200 West, 700 North, and so forth. University Parkway cuts diagonally northwest across the grid from Brigham Young University to connect with

Where to Stay & Dine in Downtown Provo



WHERE TO STAY
Best Western Columbian **10**
Best Western Cottontree Inn **2**
Days Inn **3**
Econo Lodge **5**
Hines Mansion Luxury Bed & Breakfast **6**
Provo Marriott **4**
Sleep Inn **8**
Travelodge **9**

WHERE TO DINE
Porter's Place **1**
Ruby River Steakhouse **11**
Sensuous Sandwich **7**

1300 South (I-15 exit 269) in Orem. The center of Orem is the intersection of Center Street (I-15 exit 271) and Main Street. State Street (U.S. 89) crosses the city diagonally, right through ground zero.

Major car-rental agencies include **Budget** (✆ 800/237-7251), **Enterprise** (✆ 800/325-8007 or 801/375-7755), **Hertz** (✆ 800/654-3131 or 801/373-5667), and **Payless** (✆ 800/729-5377 or 801/374-9000).

The **Utah Transit Authority** runs about a dozen routes in and around the Provo area, with connections to Salt Lake City, Lehi, and Springville. For schedule information, call ✆ **801/743-3882** or check the Web, **www.rideuta.com**. Route maps and schedules are also available at the visitor center in the county courthouse.

FAST FACTS The main hospital in Provo is **Utah Valley Regional Medical Center,** 1034 N. 500 West (✆ **801/357-7850**). The main **post office** is at 95 W. 100 South (✆ **800/275-8777;** www.usps.com). The local newspaper is the *Daily Herald.* The **sales tax** totals about 6.25%.

EXPLORING BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1875 by Brigham Young, Brigham Young University is the nation's largest church-owned private university, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Home to more than 30,000 students, the beautiful 638-acre campus is located on the east side of Provo at the base of the Wasatch Mountains.

For information, contact Brigham Young University, Public Affairs and Guest Relations, Provo, UT 84602 (✆ **801/422-4678;** www.byu.edu). To get to the university from I-15 north, take exit 269, University Parkway, and travel east through Orem into Provo to the northwest entrance of the campus.

Free 45-minute **tours** of the campus, beginning at the visitor center, are offered Monday through Friday on the hour from 9am to 4pm. Allow at least 1 hour. Admission to campus museums is free unless otherwise noted; allow 1 to 2 hours for each of the BYU museums.

The 112-foot-tall **Centennial Carillon Tower,** a campus landmark, houses 52 bells that toll at intervals throughout the day.

The **Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum,** 1430 North, just east of the Marriott Center (✆ **801/422-5051**), houses extensive collections of insects, plants, reptiles, fish, shells, mammals, and birds from around the world, with an emphasis on Utah's wildlife. It's open Monday through Friday from 10am to 9pm and Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

The **Earth Science Museum,** 1683 N. Provo Canyon Rd., west of Cougar Stadium (✆ **801/422-3680**), offers one of Utah's largest collections of dinosaur bones from the Jurassic period. Guided tours are available by appointment. Hours are Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.

The **Harris Fine Arts Center,** Campus Drive (✆ **801/422-2881**), houses galleries featuring American and European artists. The B. F. Larsen Gallery and Gallery 303 feature student and faculty exhibitions. The center also hosts theatrical and musical performances in its five theaters; call for the schedule and ticket prices. Hours for the center and B. F. Larsen Gallery are Monday through Friday from 6am to 11pm (later for performing arts events); Gallery 303 is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.

The state-of-the-art **Museum of Art** ★★, north of the Fine Arts Center at 492 E. Campus Dr. (✆ **801/422-2787** or 801/422-8287), is one of the largest museums in the West. Its 17,000-piece collection includes something for everyone, from ceramics to sculpture, paintings to pottery. You'll see everything from etchings by Rembrandt

and Monet to jade and ivory from Asia. The museum also contains a gift shop and a cafe that serves lunch. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am to 6pm; Monday and Thursday from 10am to 9pm; and Saturday from noon to 5pm. Admission is charged for special exhibitions only.

The **Museum of Peoples and Cultures,** in Allen Hall, 700 N. 100 East (✆ **801/422-0020**), focuses on the cultures of the Western Hemisphere, but also looks at Colombian, Egyptian, Israeli, Polynesian, and Syrian societies. It's open Monday through Friday from 8am to noon and 1 to 5pm.

The **Harold B. Lee Library** (✆ **801/422-2926**) is the largest library in Utah, with more than three million bound volumes. Library hours are Monday through Saturday from 7am to midnight. The second floor houses the world's second-largest **genealogical library** (✆ **801/422-6200**), with free services to all.

MORE TO SEE & DO IN THE PROVO AREA

Here in Provo, home of Brigham Young University, it should be no surprise that you'll see a number of stately homes that once belonged to well-to-do church officials, as well as commercial buildings constructed to serve the growing community. Stop at the **visitor center** (p. 167) for a booklet describing the city's dozens of historic buildings. Nearby, the **Utah County Courthouse** is well worth a visit. This magnificent structure was built of Manti limestone in the 1920s. Notice the marble floors and detailing, the fine collection of artwork displayed on the walls, and the overall feeling of grandeur emanating from the classical balance of the design.

The **Provo Town Square,** at the intersection of University Avenue and Center Street, contains the core of Provo's business community, which developed beginning in the 1890s. Here you'll see the 1900 **Knight Block,** a big red building with a large clock; the **Gates & Snow Furniture Co.,** to the east of the Knight Block, with one of Utah's best pressed-tin fronts; and the **Zion Bank,** at the northwest corner, situated in what was originally the Bank of Commerce building. West along Center Street sits a row of period storefronts, with the newer businesses now occupying them.

An interesting historic home is the **Thomas N. Taylor House,** 342 N. 500 West. "T.N.T.," as he was known, was manager of the Taylor Brothers Store and served as mayor of Provo and president of the Utah Stake of the LDS Church. His home, built in the first decade of the 20th century, exemplifies the kind of house most second-generation Utahns aspired to have. Nearby is the **Clark-Taylor House,** 310 N. 500 West, thought to be the oldest home in Utah Valley still standing on its original site. The adobe structure was built in 1854, with later additions of the two-story front, the trim around the windows, and the gables. Neither of these houses are open for tours.

Heading out of town, a turnout on U.S. 189, about 4 miles north and east of Provo, affords awe-inspiring views of **Bridal Veil Falls,** a double cataract waterfall that drops 607 feet to the Provo River. This is also a good spot to begin hikes into Provo Canyon.

Crandall Historical Printing Museum The greatest invention of all time, according to museum founder Louis Crandall, was that of moveable type and the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany in the mid-1400s. Prior to that time, all printing was painstakingly done by hand. The printing press was the first step toward a literate society, enabling the eventual mass production of books, and their accessibility for more and more people.

A tour of this growing museum, which takes visitors on a tour of printing through the centuries, starts with its press—believed to be the only working replica in the United States. You'll see a functional replica of the English common press that was

used by Benjamin Franklin to print *Poor Richard's Almanac;* a working replica of the press used to print the first Book of Mormon in 1830; numerous other replicas and antique presses, and a relatively modern Linotype machine. Of special interest is a rare original—and quite beautiful—page from one of Gutenberg's Bibles. Allow 1 hour.

275 E. Center St. ✆ **801/377-7777.** www.crandallmuseum.com. Admission $3 per person. Mon–Fri 9am–2pm; guided tours by appointment, with a 15-person minimum. Closed major holidays. Downtown Provo, about 3 blocks east of University Ave.

John Hutchings Museum of Natural History Born in 1889, John Hutchings had an insatiable curiosity about the world around him. He collected and studied numerous objects, discussing his observations with friends and family. His collections are the core of this museum, which houses mineral displays and rare specimens of varacite and crystal aluminum, and describes their links to mining districts of the region. There are also dinosaur bones; flamingo tracks from Spanish Fork Canyon; a piece of tusk from a woolly mammoth; tools and pottery from early man; and artifacts from Utah's early residents, including a shotgun owned by famed outlaw Butch Cassidy. Allow 45 minutes.

55 N. Center St., Lehi. ✆ **801/768-7180.** Admission $2.50 adults, $2 seniors and students, $1.50 children under 13, $7 family. Tues–Sat 11am–5pm. From I-15 exit 279, take Main St. west to Center St. and turn right.

Springville Museum of Art ★★ The art of Utah is the cornerstone of this fine museum, housed in part in a 1937 Spanish colonial revival–style building. The museum contains one of the finest displays of Utah art available, arranged in chronological order to illustrate the development of art in the state. Of its nine galleries, four are reserved for changing exhibits of historical and contemporary art of Utah. The museum also has an excellent (and little-known) collection of Russian working-class Impressionism. The museum contains a research library and bookstore, and offers a series of lectures. Allow about 1 hour for your visit.

126 E. 400 South, Springville. ✆ **801/489-2727.** www.sma.nebo.edu. Free admission; donations accepted. Tues–Sat 10am–5pm (Wed to 9pm); Sun 3–6pm. Closed legal holidays. From I-15 exit 260, go east to Springville, entering town on 400 South.

Thanksgiving Point ★★ *Kids* This huge complex, developed by the cofounders of WordPerfect software as an expression of gratitude to their community, includes a splendid dinosaur museum—the **North American Museum of Ancient Life.** Billed as the largest dinosaur museum in the world, this is where you'll see some of the longest and tallest dinosaur replicas ever put on display, plus fossils and related exhibits on paleontology. The museum contains a children's discovery room, a fossil lab where you can see paleontologists at work, a wide-screen theater, and a museum store selling practically everything dinosaur related. Allow 2 hours. Elsewhere at Thanksgiving Point are the delightful **Thanksgiving Gardens**—55 acres of themed gardens, including topiary, butterfly, fragrance, herb, and English rose gardens, plus an unusual waterfall garden, all connected by some 2 miles of landscaped brick pathways. The Children's Discovery Garden, designed to encourage children's imaginations, contains a large Noah's Ark, an underground exhibit area, and a hedge maze. Allow 2 hours. There's also **Farm Country,** with an animal park and exhibits on the farming life (allow 1–2 hr.), plus an amphitheater, a golf course (p. 172), numerous shops, and several restaurants. Wagon and carriage rides are also offered. You will find various educational programs here.

3003 N. Thanksgiving Way, Lehi. ✆ **888/672-6040** or 801/768-2300. www.thanksgivingpoint.com. Admission to museum $14 adults, $11 children 3–12 and seniors 65 and older, free for under 3. Call for fees for gardens and other sites and activities. Grounds Mon–Sat; call for hours for specific venues. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. From I-15 exit 284, go west to Thanksgiving Way.

SPORTS & OUTDOOR PURSUITS

One of the top spots for fishing, boating, and swimming in this area is **Utah Lake State Park** ★★, 4400 W. Center St. (✆ **801/375-0731;** www.stateparks.utah.gov), Utah's largest freshwater lake. The 96,600-acre lake is especially popular with owners of speedboats, personal watercraft, and sailboats, although you will see the occasional canoe or kayak. Mountains dominate the view in all directions, and at night, the lights of the city illuminate the panorama to the east. Anglers catch channel catfish, walleye, white bass, black bass, and several species of panfish. There are boat-launching ramps, but there are no boat rentals. Although there are no hiking or biking trails in the park itself, the **Provo River Parkway Trail** leads from the edge of the park into Provo Canyon (see below).

The park's 54-site campground is open April through October only; the park is open for day use year-round. The campground has no RV hookups, but you will find a dump station as well as modern restrooms with showers. Day-use hours are 6am to 10pm in summer, 8am to 5pm in winter. Day use costs $9 per vehicle. Camping costs $17; reservations (with a $7 nonrefundable fee) can be made by calling ✆ **800/322-3770** or through the state parks website. Take I-15 exit 265B, Center Street west; it's about 3 miles to the park.

Outdoor recreation enthusiasts also head into the **Uinta National Forest,** which practically surrounds Provo and offers hundreds of miles of hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding trails. Check with the **Forest Supervisor's office,** 88 W. 100 North (✆ **801/377-5780;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta), for maps and tips on where to go.

Lehi is home to a huge (150,000-sq.-ft.!) new **Cabela's,** 2502 Grand Terrace Pkwy. (✆ **801/466-2500;** www.cabelas.com), selling every kind of outdoor gear imaginable. There's even a restaurant, horse corrals, and an indoor archery range.

Right in town, the 9-mile **Provo River Parkway Trail** winds from Utah Lake to Provo Canyon, following the Provo River part of the way. This slag trail (slag is the rock that's left over when a metal is mined) is open to both bikers and hikers.

Among the public golf courses in the area are **Thanksgiving Point Golf Club** in Lehi (p. 171; ✆ **801/768-7400**), an 18-hole, par-72 championship course designed by golf pro Johnny Miller; **Cascade Fairways Golf Course,** 1313 E. 800 North, Orem (✆ **801/225-6677**), which has a driving range and 9 holes and is par-35; and **East Bay Golf Course,** 1860 S. Eastbay Blvd. (✆ **801/373-6262**), on the south side of the city, which is an 18-hole, par-71 course with a driving range, lodging, and RV facilities.

WATER & ICE FUN

Seven Peaks Water Park This is the place for a wide variety of water fun—you'll encounter dozens of heated water attractions on 26 acres abutting the mountains. The facilities include a large wave pool, winding slides, children's pools, an activity pool, large pavilions and shaded cabanas, plenty of grass, a gift shop, and food vendors. Tubes are available for rent.

The adjacent **Peaks Ice Arena** (✆ **801/377-8777**), built for the 2002 Olympics, contains two Olympic-size ice-skating rinks that are open to the public. Skate rental is available. The arena is open year-round; call for the current rates and schedule.

1330 E. 300 North. ✆ **801/373-8777.** www.sevenpeaks.com. All-day admission to the Water Park $19 adults, $15 children 4–11, free for seniors 65 and older and toddlers 3 and under; half-day (after 4pm) $11 ages 4–64. The Water Park is open late May to early Sept Mon–Sat 11am–8pm. From I-15 exit 265B, head east on Center St.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Brigham Young University is part of the Mountain West Conference. The **Cougars football** team plays at the 65,000-seat Cougar Stadium; tickets are hard to come by, so call as far in advance as possible. The **basketball** team plays in the 23,000-seat Marriott Center; you usually won't have too much trouble getting tickets. For general information on all BYU sports teams, call ✆ **801/422-4911** or check the athletic department's website at www.byucougars.com. For tickets, call ✆ **800/322-2981** or 801/422-2981, or buy online at www.byutickets.com.

WHERE TO STAY

In addition to the following listings, affordable chain and franchise motels in Provo, with rates usually between $50 and $90 for two people, include **Best Western Columbian,** 70 E. 300 South, Provo, UT 84606 (✆ 800/321-0055 or 801/373-8973); **Best Western Cottontree Inn,** 2230 N. University Pkwy., Provo, UT 84604 (✆ 800/662-6886 or 801/373-7044); **Days Inn,** 1675 N. 200 West, Provo, UT 84604 (✆ 800/329-7466 or 801/375-8600); **Econo Lodge,** 1625 W. Center St., Provo, UT 84601 (✆ 800/553-2666 or 801/373-0099); **Sleep Inn,** 1505 S. 40 East, Provo, UT 84601 (✆ 800/424-6423 or 801/377-6597); and **Travelodge,** 124 S. University Ave., Provo, UT 84601 (✆ 800/578-7878 or 801/373-1974).

Rates are highest in summer, lowest in late winter and early spring. Rates are often significantly higher during Brigham Young University special events, and rooms can be very scarce at graduation time. Tax added to lodging bills is just under 11%. Pets are not allowed unless otherwise noted.

Hines Mansion Luxury Bed & Breakfast Built in 1895 for mining and real-estate magnate Russell Spencer Hines, this Victorian-style mansion is a true gem, and makes a wonderful spot to celebrate a special occasion or to simply relax and soak up some historic charm. Innkeepers Sandy and John Rowe have retained the mansion's historical ambience and integrity, while adding all the modern touches you'd expect and more. Every guest room is unique, but each has 1890s decor, a queen-size or king-size bed, antique and reproduction furnishings, a TV with VCR, robes, and a two-person whirlpool tub plus a separate private bathroom. The Penthouse, which occupies the entire top floor of the mansion, boasts a queen-size pillow-top bed, a 46-inch TV with VCR, and spectacular views of the city and nearby mountains through huge oval windows from the two-person whirlpool tub.

Fresh-baked cookies and fresh fruit are served each evening, and complimentary sparkling cider is placed in each room. The delightful breakfasts feature fruit, yogurt, and a hot gourmet dish such as baked egg puffs or pecan pancakes. Smoking is not permitted.

383 W. 100 South, Provo, UT 84601. ✆ **800/428-5636** or 801/374-8400. Fax 801/374-0823. www.hinesmansion.com. 9 units. $119–$219 double. Rates include full breakfast. MC, V. Not recommended for children. *In room:* A/C, TV/VCR.

Provo Marriott This well-regarded high-rise hotel in downtown Provo provides comfortable—even luxurious—accommodations with splendid views (especially from the upper floors) and all the amenities you could want, including coffeemakers, irons and ironing boards, hair dryers, and dataports with high-speed Internet access. Public areas and bedrooms are handsomely appointed, decorated primarily in light earth

tones. Some in-room fridges and VCRs are available, and some units have whirlpool tubs. Allie's American Grille serves three meals daily.

101 W. 100 North, Provo, UT 84601. ✆ **888/825-3162** or 801/377-4700. Fax 801/377-4708. www.marriotthotels.com/slcvo. 331 units. $99–$179 double. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Free covered parking (height limit 6 ft. 9 in.). **Amenities:** Restaurant (American); 2 heated pools (indoor and outdoor); fitness center; Jacuzzi; sauna; business center; limited room service (6:30am–11pm); coin-op laundry; same-day dry cleaning; executive level. *In room:* A/C, cable TV w/pay movies, high-speed Internet access, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

CAMPGROUNDS

Lakeside RV Campground Situated along the Provo River, this campground offers the best of both worlds—it's close to the attractions and restaurants of Provo, and it offers a quiet camping experience with trees, flowers, grassy areas, ducks, and geese. In addition to the usual bathhouse, dump station, and RV hookups, the campground has a self-serve laundry, a Wi-Fi network, a heated pool, a nature walk, horseshoe pits, a volleyball area, a playground, and a game room. A store sells groceries, and propane is available. You can fish in the Provo River, or head to Utah Lake, just a quarter-mile away.

4000 W. Center St., Provo, UT 84601. ✆ **800/906-5267** for reservations, or 801/373-5267. www.lakesidervcampground.com. 150 sites (all RV sites, 112 with full hookups, 12 with water and electric). $23–$25 for 2 people. MC, V. From I-15 exit 265B, go west 2 miles. Pets welcome.

WHERE TO DINE

Provo is a conservative, family-oriented city; many restaurants do not serve alcohol, and a number are closed on Sundays. In addition to the restaurants discussed below, we heartily recommend the Tree Room, at the nearby Sundance Resort (p. 163).

Porter's Place ★★ *Kids* STEAK/AMERICAN One of Utah's more colorful and controversial characters, Porter Rockwell served as a bodyguard for LDS church leaders Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, was accused but acquitted of attempting to assassinate the lieutenant governor of Missouri, and was blamed for, but not charged with, other murders. Named in Rockwell's "honor," Porter's Place is an Old West–style restaurant with a large regional following. Housed in a 1915 building, the restaurant has the look of an old saloon, with red-brick walls, heavy wood tables, and historic photos. There's also a counter (actually a bar from an 1883 Montana saloon) with tractor seats for stools.

Porter's specializes in thick steaks and fresh fish. The lunch menu features a variety of sandwiches and burgers, including a buffalo burger and a huge 1-pound beef burger. Especially popular at dinner are the top sirloin steaks, ranging from 5 to 24 ounces, and the buffalo steaks. Portions are generally large, but the dinner menu also offers 10 "lite dinners" with smaller portions. A local bakery provides the breads and pastries; fountain treats such as old-fashioned sodas, malts, and banana splits are available as well. Despite the saloonlike appearance and handsome old bar, no alcohol is served.

24 W. Main St., Lehi. ✆ **801/768-8348.** Main courses $4.75–$12 lunch, $5.95–$28 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 10am–10pm; Fri–Sat 10am–11pm. From I-15 exit 279, go west on Main St.

Ruby River Steakhouse ★ STEAK If a thick, juicy, sizzling steak is your idea of the perfect meal, then Ruby River is for you. And if you also happen to like country western music, cowboy boots, and cold beer, you'll be even happier. Decor is strictly Western, with a large painting of galloping wild horses, a rock fireplace, and a bar with tall tables and buckets of peanuts. Beef is USDA Choice, aged 21 days, hand-cut, seasoned, and double-broiled at 1,600°F. Choices range from the New York cut (voted Utah's best steak in various polls) to tender filet mignon, rib-eye, T-bone, and porterhouse. There's also the very tasty slow-roasted prime rib, served with fresh-grated

horseradish and sour cream. Although steak is really the reason to come here, the restaurant also does an admirable job with its slow-roasted baby back ribs in Louisiana-style barbecue sauce, and its several chicken dishes, including chicken breast in a sweet raspberry-wheat-beer marinade. Also offered are a fresh fish of the day and a broiled salmon filet with barbecue sauce. Side dishes include a savory—a tasty potato that's baked and then dipped in a garlic batter and deep-fried—and a sweet—a yam that's baked, dipped in a cinnamon batter, and deep-fried. Several microbrews are served, along with a number of other beers, wine by the glass and bottle, and a complete liquor bar.

1454 S. University Ave. (in the Holiday Inn). ✆ **801/371-0648.** Reservations not accepted. Main courses $6–$17 lunch, $12–$30 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11am–11pm; Sun 1–9pm. Just north of I-15 exit 269.

Sensuous Sandwich *Value* SANDWICHES You can eat at one of the few tables at this speedy sandwich shop or you can take your selection with you. All sandwiches come with the usual condiments, including spicy brown mustard and lettuce, as well as extras such as horseradish, olives, avocado, green pepper, and cheese. Top-of-the-line is, of course, the Sensuous Sandwich, with ham, turkey, roast beef, and jack cheese. Also available are pastrami, crab, chicken breast, and tuna. No alcohol is served.

There's a second location at 378 E. University Parkway, Orem (✆ **801/225-9475**).

163 W. Center St. ✆ **801/377-9244.** Sandwiches by the inch: $2.50 (4 in.)–$11 (24 in.). MC, V. Mon–Sat 10:30am–8pm. From I-15 exit 265A, follow Center St. east.

PROVO AFTER DARK

The **Brigham Young University Theatre,** on the BYU campus (✆ **801/422-4322**), presents more than a dozen theatrical productions each year.

From summer through early fall, you can see live musicals and concerts under the stars at the **SCERA Shell Theatre,** 699 S. State St., in SCERA Park, Orem (✆ **801/225-2569;** www.scera.org). The season usually includes several locally produced Broadway musicals, plus a variety of concerts, from pop to country to classical.

Johnny B's Comedy Club, 177 W. 300 South (✆ **801/377-6910**), is a popular place for stand-up. Shows usually start at 9pm on Thursday, 8pm and 10pm on Friday and Saturday. No alcohol is served. At **Atchafalaya,** 210 W. Center St. (✆ **801/373-9014**), the bar area offers live bands, DJs, and karaoke in a Bourbon Street atmosphere. The adjacent cafe serves Louisiana Cajun cuisine.

6 Timpanogos Cave National Monument

20 miles N of Provo, 35 miles S of Salt Lake City

This national monument is actually composed of three caves—Hansen, Middle, and Timpanogos—that are linked together by man-made tunnels. Martin Hansen discovered the first cavern in 1887 while tracking a mountain lion. The other two were reported in the early 1910s, and the connecting tunnels were constructed in the 1930s. The caves are filled with 47 kinds of cave formations, from stalactites and stalagmites to draperies and helictites. The caves aren't easy to reach, but their beauty and variety make them worth the rough 1½-hour trek to the mouth.

ESSENTIALS

The caves are accessible only from early May to mid-October, daily from 7am to 5:30pm (8am–5pm after Labor Day). The caves close in winter because snow and ice

make the access trail too hazardous. The steep trail is not navigable by either wheelchairs or strollers.

FEES & REGULATIONS One-hour cave tours cost $7 for adults, $5 for children 6 to 15, $3 for children 3 to 5, and free for children under 3; 90-minute "Introduction to Caving" tours, available only to those 14 and older, cost $15 per person. The U.S. Forest Service also charges a $3 per vehicle fee to enter American Fork Canyon, where the national monument is located. Pets are not allowed on the trail or in the caves.

GETTING THERE/ACCESS POINTS From Provo, head north on I-15 to exit 284, then east on Utah 92 to the visitor center, which is on the south side of the road. For a beautiful but slow drive, when you leave the caves, continue east and then south on Utah 92 through American Fork Canyon, which is narrow and winding, and turn west on U.S. 189 back to Provo. From Salt Lake City, take I-15 south to exit 287, and proceed as above.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER Contact **Timpanogos Cave National Monument** at R.R. 3, Box 200, American Fork, UT 84003-9803 (✆ **801/756-5238;** www.nps.gov/tica). The visitor center is on the south side of Utah 92. It is open May to Labor Day daily from 7am to 5:30pm, and Labor Day to mid-October daily from 8am to 5pm.

Note that parking at the visitor center is limited for large vehicles, such as motor homes over 20 feet. Although small, the visitor center offers a short film about the caves, a few explanatory displays and booklets, and postcards for sale. You'll find a snack bar and gift shop next to the center, as well as two picnic areas located along the shady banks of the American Fork River. One is across from the visitor center; a larger one, with fire grills and restrooms, is about ¼ mile west.

EXPLORING THE MONUMENT

The only way to see the caves is on a ranger-guided tour. Allow about 3 hours total for the basic cave tour—1½ hours hiking up, an hour in the caves, and 30 to 45 minutes hiking back down. The tours are limited to 20 persons and often fill up early in the morning, so it's best to call ahead and reserve your space with a credit card. The "Introduction to Caving" tours are about a half-hour longer and are limited to five people. Reservations are required. The temperature inside the caves is around 45°F (7°C) (about the same as a refrigerator), so take a jacket or sweatshirt.

THE HIKE TO THE CAVES The change in elevation between the visitor center (at about 5,600 ft.) and the cave entrance is 1,065 feet, and the steep trail is 1.5 miles long; it's a physically demanding walk, but quite rewarding. The trail should not be attempted by anyone with breathing, heart, or walking difficulties. Wear good walking shoes and carry water and perhaps a snack.

This is a self-guided hike, so you can travel at your own pace, stopping at the benches along the way to rest and enjoy the views of the canyon, the Wasatch Range, and Utah Valley. A trail guide, available at the visitor center, will help you identify the wildflowers growing amid the Douglas fir, white fir, maple, and oak trees. You'll also spot chipmunks, ground squirrels, lizards, and a myriad of birds along the way. Restrooms are available at the cave entrance, but not inside the cave or along the trail.

TOURING THE CAVES The basic ranger-guided cave tour is along a surfaced, well-lit, and fairly level route. You'll enter at the natural entrance to Hansen Cave and continue through Hansen, Middle, and Timpanogos Caves. Nature decorated the

limestone chambers with delicately colored stalactites, stalagmites, draperies, graceful flowstone, and helictites (curvy formations for which the caves are famous), all in soft greens, reds, yellows, and white. The huge cave formation of linked stalactites at the Great Heart of Timpanogos is quite impressive, and the profusion of bizarre, brilliant white helictites in the Chimes Chamber of Timpanogos is stunning. Mirrorlike cave pools reflect the formations. The "Introduction to Caving" tours take you to less developed sections, and require some crawling through tight places.

You'll need high-speed film or a flash if you're taking photos; tripods are not allowed. Remember that the formations are fragile and easily damaged, even by a light touch of your hand—the oils from your skin will change the formations' chemical makeup.

9

Dinosaurs & Natural Wonders in Utah's Northeast Corner

Utah has more than its share of natural treasures, with Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks and the other wonderful red-rock areas of southern Utah springing to mind first. But tucked away in the state's far northeastern corner, more rugged and less accessible, lies a playground of great scenic beauty, filled with fascinating historic (and prehistoric) sites. And you won't have to fight throngs of tourists here: This land where the dinosaurs once roamed is still relatively undiscovered and unspoiled.

1 Vernal: Gateway to the Region's Top Recreational Areas

175 miles E of Salt Lake City

A perfect base for exploring Dinosaur National Monument—just 20 miles from town—and Ashley National Forest, Vernal (at 5,280 ft. in elevation) is the largest community in the region. You'll find all the services you might need, as well as a few attractions that serve as a good introduction to the compelling geologic and natural history of the area.

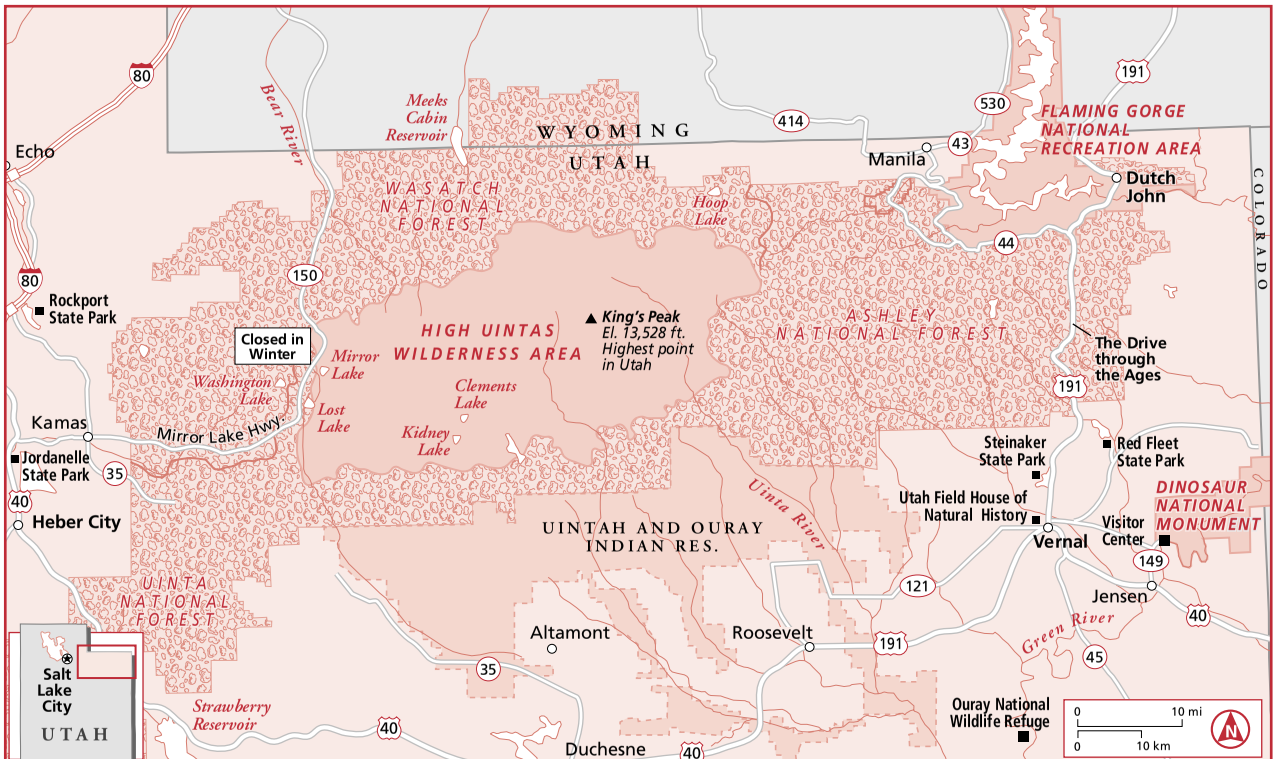
ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE From Heber City, U.S. 40 leads east, past Strawberry Reservoir (there's world-class fishing here if you have time to stop; see p. 162) and through Duchesne and Roosevelt, each of which have a few motels, restaurants, and services, before reaching Vernal (158 miles from Heber City).

From I-70, take exit 157 west of Green River and follow U.S. 6/191 north 68 miles through Price and Helper, branching northeast above Helper to follow U.S. 191 for 44 beautiful mountainous miles to Duchesne. Then take U.S. 40 east for 58 miles to Vernal.

The **Uintah County Airport** (✆ **435/789-3400**) is located about 1½ miles southeast of the center of town, with flights to and from Salt Lake City year-round on **Salmon Air** (✆ **800/448-3413** or 435/789-6932; www.salmonair.com).

VISITOR INFORMATION Information on area lodging, dining, and recreational facilities can be obtained from the **Dinosaurland Travel Board,** 55 E. Main St., Vernal, UT 84078 (✆ **800/477-5558** or 435/789-6932; www.dinoland.com), open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. You can also get information at the **Utah Welcome Center** in Jensen, about 13 miles southeast of Vernal on U.S. 40, which is open in summer daily from 8am to 8pm and in winter daily from 9am to 5pm.


Echo
80
Bear River
Meeks Cabin Reservoir
WYOMING
UTAH
414
Manila
530
191
FLAMING GORGE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
Dutch John
COLORADO
WASATCH NATIONAL FOREST
Hoop Lake
44
150
Rockport State Park
Closed in Winter
HIGH UINTAS WILDERNESS AREA
King's Peak
El. 13,528 ft.
Highest point in Utah
ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST
The Drive through the Ages
Mirror Lake
Washington Lake
Lost Lake
Clements Lake
Kidney Lake
Kamas
Mirror Lake Hwy.
Jordanelle State Park
35
40
Heber City
Steinaker State Park
Red Fleet State Park
Utah Field House of Natural History
Visitor Center
Vernal
DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT
Uinta River
UINTAH AND OURAY INDIAN RES.
149
121
Jensen
UINTA NATIONAL FOREST
Altamont
Roosevelt
Green River
45
Salt Lake City
UTAH
Strawberry Reservoir
Ouray National Wildlife Refuge
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0
10 mi
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N

GETTING AROUND Car rentals are available in town from **Utah Motor Co.** (✆ **435/789-0454**) and **All Save** (✆ **800/440-5776** or 435/789-4777). Local transportation is available from **Vernal City Cab** (✆ **435/790-1212**).

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

In addition to the outdoor recreation areas discussed here, see the sections "Dinosaur National Monument" and "Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area," later in this chapter.

ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST

This vast forest encompasses more than a million acres of beautiful mountain country, including Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (p. 187) and the High Uintas Wilderness. **Kings Peak,** in the High Uintas Wilderness Area, is Utah's tallest mountain, at 13,528 feet. Throughout the national forest, you'll find numerous opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing, camping, cross-country skiing, and other activities. The Forest Service also rents out its guard stations and yurts, which make an excellent base for exploring the mountains north of Vernal (see "Where to Stay," below).

Information is available from the **Vernal Ranger District office,** 355 N. Vernal Ave., Vernal, UT 84078 (✆ **435/789-1181;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley), open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

OURAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Hundreds of species of migratory birds and waterfowl make their home in this 11,987-acre wetlands refuge, which lies south of Vernal along the Green River. A 12-mile car tour route begins at the visitor contact station; you'll also find hiking trails and an observation tower. In addition to a variety of birds, you're likely to see mule deer.

To get here from Vernal, take U.S. 40 west about 14 miles and turn left (south) onto Utah 88 for about 14 miles to the refuge entrance. The visitor contact station is about a mile from the entrance. Entry is free. The refuge is open daily year-round, from an hour before sunrise to an hour after sunset. Contact the refuge office, HC 69, Box 232, Randlett, UT 84063-2042 (✆ **435/545-2522;** http://ouray.fws.gov) for more information.

RED FLEET STATE PARK

Located 10 miles north of Vernal, at 4335 North U.S. 191, this scenic park—it looks like a junior version of Lake Powell—offers fishing, boating, swimming, and camping, plus about 200 well-preserved dinosaur tracks. The 750-acre Red Fleet Reservoir was named for three large deep-red sandstone rock formations that resemble the hulls of ships. You'll encounter sandy beaches, rock cliffs, and plenty of open water; wildlife such as rabbits, ground squirrels, mule deer, and the occasional bobcat; and good fishing for rainbow and brown trout, bluegill, and bass. On chilly mornings, golden eagles are sometimes spotted sunning themselves on rock outcroppings; other birds that frequent the park include hawks, vultures, owls, and bluebirds.

The **dinosaur tracks,** which are about 200 million years old, are found on a large slab of rock that slants down into the water and is located across the reservoir from the park's boat ramp. The greatest number of tracks can be seen when the water level is low, from late summer through winter. You can reach the tracks by boat or by swimming (wear a life jacket so you can return easily), or via a 1.5-mile hike (one-way) from a Bureau of Land Management road. To reach the BLM road, continue north along U.S. 191 1 mile past the turnoff to Red Fleet. Turn right (east) just past mile marker 212,

Tips The Drive through the Ages

One of the most scenic drives in the state is the Flaming Gorge–Uintas Scenic Byway—U.S. 191 from Vernal up to Manila and Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area—one of the first designated national scenic byways in the United States. The 67-mile route climbs through foothills covered with pine and juniper trees into the Uinta Mountains; signs along the way explain the evolution of the intriguing geologic formations you'll see. Near Flaming Gorge, you'll pass the billion-year-old rock core of the Uinta Mountains. Stop at some of the many turnouts for scenic views, short walks, and wildlife viewing—watch for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, and moose, especially in spring.

cross a cattle guard, and drive 2⅓ miles on the paved road to the trail head: a small turnout with a sign at the trail; a stock tank sits across the road, partly hidden by bushes and trees. Allow about 2 hours for the moderate hike over low, sandy hills. In winter, when the reservoir is frozen, it's a quick walk from the boat ramp across the ice to the tracks (provided it's thick enough to cross—please use caution).

Park facilities include the boat ramp, fish-cleaning stations, an RV dump station, and a 38-site campground. Although the campground is essentially a parking lot, it does offer splendid panoramic views across the lake. There are also grassy areas for tents, plus tables and fire pits. You'll find modern restrooms but no showers or RV hookups. Camping costs $11; the day-use fee is $5 per vehicle. Gates are open daily from 6am to 10pm in summer, 8am to 5pm in winter. Call ✆ **435/789-4432** for information, 800/322-3770 for campsite reservations. The Utah State Parks website is www.stateparks.utah.gov.

STEINAKER STATE PARK

Steinaker offers a sandy swimming beach, good fishing for rainbow trout and largemouth bass, and an attractive campground, just 7 miles north of Vernal at 4335 N. U.S. 191. This reservoir, which covers 780 acres when full, is also popular with waterskiers and boaters. Unfortunately, there are no rental facilities nearby.

Wildlife here includes mule deer, jackrabbits, cottontails, ground squirrels, porcupines, and an occasional elk or bobcat. Migratory waterfowl are often seen in spring and fall, and the park also attracts American robins, pheasants, and golden eagles. The landscape is composed primarily of juniper and sagebrush, with cottonwoods and aspen trees near the lake. Spring usually brings out an abundance of wildflowers, such as Indian paintbrush, larkspur, and sego lily. There are several unmarked hiking trails—ask a ranger for directions—and additional hiking opportunities nearby on property managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Facilities include a boat ramp, fish-cleaning station, and RV dump station. The tree-shaded campground contains 31 sites and modern restrooms, but no showers or RV hookups. Picnic tables, barbecue grills, and fire pits are available. Camping costs $11; the day-use fee is $5. Gates are open daily from 6am to 10pm in summer, from 8am to 5pm in winter. Call ✆ **435/789-4432** for information, 800/322-3770 for campsite reservations. The Utah State Parks website is www.stateparks.utah.gov.

SEEING THE SIGHTS IN TOWN

Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum This small museum offers a fine display of pioneer relics and photos, and a history of the settling of the area from the mid-1800s. Allow half an hour.

500 W. 200 South St. Donations requested. June–Aug Tues–Sat 10am–4pm. Closed rest of year.

Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum Centered on a brand-new museum building with a theater, this park gives visitors a close-up look at a huge dinosaur skeleton and a number of exhibits on paleontology, geology, and the Fremont and Ute cultures. Kids will love the **Dinosaur Garden** ★★, with 18 life-size models of dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures in a delightful garden that simulates the dinosaurs' actual habitat. You should start your visit at the theater for a short film about paleontologists at work in the field. There's a gift shop with dinosaur-related souvenirs and books. Allow at least 1 hour.

496 E. Main St. ✆ **435/789-3799.** www.stateparks.utah.gov. $5 adults, $3 children 6–12, free for children under 6. Memorial Day to Labor Day daily 8am–7pm; rest of year daily 9am–5pm. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Western Heritage Museum ★ This well-organized and attractive museum is a good stop for those interested in the prehistoric Fremont Indians—in fact, it contains one of the country's best collections of Fremont Indian objects. It also has 1880s Ute artifacts and displays of historic rifles, fossils, and rocks. Pioneer life is depicted in a country store, a blacksmith shop with tack and saddles, a one-room schoolhouse, a barbershop, and a bedroom, kitchen, and parlor. Clothing fashions from 1880 to 1930 are also on display. The museum features changing art exhibits, and early horse-drawn wagons and farm equipment are on display outside. Allow an hour.

Western Park, 328 E. 200 South. ✆ **435/789-7399.** Free admission. Memorial Day to Labor Day Mon–Fri 9am–6pm, Sat 9am–5pm; rest of year Mon–Fri 9am–5pm, Sat 10am–2pm.

WHERE TO STAY

There are more than a dozen motels in the town of Vernal, including chain and franchise properties such as **Best Western Antlers,** 423 W. Main St. (✆ **888/791-2929** or 435/789-1202); **Best Western Dinosaur Inn,** 251 E. Main St. (✆ **800/528-1234** or 435/789-2660); **Days Inn,** 260 W. Main St. (✆ **800/329-7466** or 435/789-1011); **Econo Lodge,** 311 E. Main St. (✆ **800/553-2666** or 435/789-2000); and **Super 8,** 1624 W. Main St. (✆ **800/800-8000** or 435/789-4326). Rates for two people range from about $50 to $100, with the highest rates in summer. Room tax adds about 9%.

Another lodging option in this area is to stay at one of the **U.S. Forest Service's guard stations or yurts** ★, located in spectacular forest settings some 25 to 35 miles north of Vernal in the Ashley National Forest. Rates range from $25 to $50 per night, and the facilities offer a range of amenities and sleeping capacities and are available year-round. For information, contact the Vernal Ranger District office (✆ **435/789-1181;** www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley); for reservations call ✆ **877/444-6777** or visit **www.reserveusa.com**.

Split Mountain Motel This small mom-and-pop operation is comfortable, attractively furnished, and exceptionally well maintained. Rooms are decorated in light tones, with wood-grain furnishings, and many display photos of the area. Most units have combination tub/showers, although some have showers only; all have fridges and

microwaves. Amenities include free morning coffee. There's no swimming pool, but you'll find a pool and water slide just a half-block away.

1015 E. U.S. 40, Vernal, UT 84078. ✆ **435/789-9020.** Fax 435/789-9023. 40 units. $48–$54 double. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge.

CAMPING

Among the area campgrounds with full RV hookups and hot showers is **Dinosaurland KOA,** 930 N. Vernal Ave., Vernal, UT 84078 (✆ **800/562-7574** or 435/789-2148; www.dinokoa.com), which is open from April through October. It has 65 RV sites and 30 grassy tent sites, with rates from $20 to $25 for tent sites and $25 to $35 for RV sites. This KOA also has five one-room cabins at $35 to $45 for two people. Both **Red Fleet State Park** (p. 180) and **Steinaker State Park** (p. 181) have camping but no RV hookups.

WHERE TO DINE

Bakeries and delicatessens can be found at **Davis Jubilee,** 575 W. Main St. (✆ **435/789-2001**), and **Smith's,** 1080 W. Main St. (✆ **435/789-7135**).

Betty's Cafe ★ *Value* AMERICAN This simple, down-home cafe is a local favorite, and we can see why. It serves well-prepared homemade food at reasonable prices. Breakfast, which includes all the usual offerings, is served all day. Lunch fare is sandwiches, half- and quarter-pound burgers, plus such choices as chicken-fried steak, liver and onions, roast beef, and hamburger steak. No alcoholic beverages are served.

416 W. Main St. ✆ **435/781-2728.** Main courses $3.95–$11. No credit cards. Mon–Sat 6am–4pm; Sun 6am–noon.

7-11 Ranch Restaurant ★ AMERICAN A good family restaurant offering home-style food in a comfortable, Western-style setting, the 7-11 Ranch Restaurant had its beginnings in 1933, when Warren "Fat" Belcher sold a cow and bought a hot dog stand. Now owned by Belcher's daughter Connie and her husband Jerry Pope, the restaurant has changed a bit—you won't even find hot dogs on the menu—but you can count on friendly service and a wide range of American favorites. There's a variety of burgers—including a huge 1-pound killer—plus hot and cold sandwiches, deep-fried halibut and other seafood, excellent chef's salads, homemade chili, pork chops, and chicken in a variety of forms. There are also steaks, barbecued beef or pork ribs, and prime ribs on Fridays. Breakfasts consist of the usual American favorites.

77 E. Main St. ✆ **435/789-1170.** Main courses $3–$8.50 breakfast, $5–$16 lunch and dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 6am–10pm.

2 Dinosaur National Monument

20 miles E of Vernal, 195 miles E of Salt Lake City

In some ways, this park is two separate experiences: a look at the lost world of dinosaurs on one hand, and a scenic wonderland of colorful rock, deep river canyons, and a forest of Douglas fir on the other.

About 150 million years ago, the region was a warm land of ferns, conifers, grasses, ponds, and rivers. This made it a suitable habitat for dinosaurs, including vegetarians such as diplodocus, apatosaurus, and stegosaurus; and sharp-toothed carnivores, such as allosaurus, that hunted their vegetarian cousins. When these huge creatures died, most of their skeletons decayed and disappeared, but in at least one spot, floodwaters washed dinosaur carcasses into the bottom of a river. Here they were preserved in sand

and covered with sediment, creating the largest quarry of Jurassic-period dinosaur bones ever discovered.

But visitors who limit their trip to the Dinosaur Quarry, fascinating as it is, miss quite a bit. Encompassing 325 square miles of stark canyons at the confluence of two rivers, the monument also offers hiking trails, pioneer homesteads, thousand-year-old rock art, spectacular panoramic vistas, wildlife-watching opportunities, and the thrills of white-water rafting.

The Yampa, Green, and smaller rivers are responsible for the area's fertility, creating microclimates that support hanging gardens of mosses and ferns, cottonwoods, and even an occasional Douglas fir—all just yards from the predominant landscape of sagebrush, cactus, and dwarfed piñon and juniper trees. Wildlife includes species that can survive the harsh extremes of the high desert climate—bighorn sheep, coyote, rabbits, and snakes—but you'll also find mule deer, beaver, and porcupine along the riverbanks. Birds that are occasionally spotted include peregrine falcons, sage grouse, and Canada geese.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE/ACCESS POINTS/VISITOR CENTERS Straddling the Utah–Colorado state line, Dinosaur National Monument is accessible via two main roads—one from each state—that don't connect inside the monument.

The **main visitor center** and the Dinosaur Quarry are 20 miles east of Vernal. To get here, take U.S. 40 to Jensen and head north on Utah 149 for 7 miles. At the visitor center's shop, you can buy books, hiking and driving guides, maps, and, of course, model dinosaurs. The main visitor center is open daily, Memorial Day to Labor Day from 9am to 6pm, and in winter from 8am to 4:30pm. It is closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Administrative offices and a small **visitor center** are located about 2 miles east of the town of Dinosaur, Colorado, at the intersection of U.S. 40 and Harpers Corner Drive. This visitor center offers a short slide program; hours are daily 8am to 4:30pm in summer and Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm at other times. The center is closed for federal holidays.

Several other monument entrances exist, all without visitor centers: At the far eastern edge of the monument off U.S. 40, an entry road leads to Deerlodge Park (open in summer only); at the northern tip, off Colo. 318, a road goes to the Gates of Lodore; just inside the Utah border at Jones Hole Fish Hatchery, a road leads into the park via the Jones Hole Road from Vernal; and at the Rainbow Park section, you'll find a park entry road off Island Park Road (impassable when wet) from the monument's western edge.

INFORMATION Contact **Dinosaur National Monument,** 4545 E. U.S. 40, Dinosaur, CO 81610-9724 (✆ **435/781-7700** or 970/374-3000; fax 970/374-3003; www.nps.gov/dino). In addition, the nonprofit **Intermountain Natural History Association,** 1291 E. U.S. 40, Vernal, UT 84078 (✆ **800/845-3466;** www.inhaweb.com), offers numerous publications, maps, posters, and videos on the park and its geology, wildlife, history, and dinosaurs. Information on area lodging, dining, and recreational facilities can be obtained from the **Dinosaurland Travel Board** (p. 179).

FEES, BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS, REGULATIONS & SAFETY The entry fee, charged only at the main Utah entrance, is $10 per vehicle or $5 per person for those on foot, on motorcycles, or on bicycles, for up to 1 week. Camping fees are additional

($8–$15 a night); backcountry overnight camping permits, although free, are required and available from park rangers.

Regulations forbid damaging or taking anything, particularly fossils and other natural, historical, and archaeological items. Off-road driving is not permitted. Dogs must be leashed at all times. Pets are not allowed in buildings, on trails, more than 100 feet from developed roads, or on river trips.

Rangers warn that the rivers are not safe for swimming or wading; the water is icy cold and the current is stronger than it appears.

SEASONS/AVOIDING THE CROWDS Summer is the busiest and hottest time of the year at Dinosaur National Monument, with daytime temperatures often soaring into the upper 90s (30s Celsius). Winters are a lot quieter but can be cold, with fog, snow, and temperatures below zero (–18°C). The best times to visit are spring (although you should be prepared for rain showers) and fall (perhaps the very best time, when the cottonwood trees turn a brilliant gold).

RANGER PROGRAMS Rangers present a variety of activities in summer, including evening campfire programs; check the schedules posted at either visitor center.

SEEING THE HIGHLIGHTS

Those with only a short amount of time should make their first stop the **Dinosaur Quarry.** It's accessible only from the Utah side and is the only place in the monument where you can see dinosaur bones. It contains the remains of many long-vanished species, including fossils of sea creatures two to three times older than any land dinosaurs. This area is believed to be one of the world's most concentrated and accessible deposits of the fossilized remains of dinosaurs, crocodiles, turtles, and clams. The quarry—which looks like a long slab of frozen pudding with bones sticking out of it—is enclosed in the visitor center, along with exhibits that help make sense of this prehistoric zoo. There's one section of bones that you can actually reach out and touch, and models show what paleontologists believe these dinosaurs looked like when they still had their skin.

After spending about an hour in the quarry, drive the **Tour of the Tilted Rocks,** which takes an hour or two. Then, if time remains, or if you're heading east into Colorado anyway, take another few hours to drive the scenic **Harpers Corner Drive** (see the next section for descriptions of both drives).

EXPLORING DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT BY CAR

Drives in both the Utah and Colorado sections of the park allow motorists to see spectacular scenery in relative solitude. Brochures for each of the following drives are available at the visitor centers.

From the Quarry visitor center on the Utah side of the park, the **Tour of the Tilted Rocks** along Cub Creek Road is a 24-mile round-trip drive that's suitable for most passenger cars. This route takes you to 1,000-year-old rock art left by the Fremont people, a pioneer homestead, and views of nearby mountains and the Green River. Watch for prairie dogs both alongside and on the road. Although mostly paved, the last 2 miles of the road are dirt and narrow, and may be dusty or muddy. Allow 1 to 2 hours.

For the best scenic views, drive to Colorado and take the **Harpers Corner Drive.** This paved, 62-mile round-trip has several overlooks offering panoramic views into the gorges carved by the Yampa and Green rivers, a look at the derby-shaped Plug Hat Butte, and close-ups of a variety of other colorful rock formations. The drive also provides access to the easy .25-mile round-trip Plug Hat Nature Trail and the moderately

difficult 2-mile round-trip Harpers Corner Trail (p. 186). Allow about 2 hours for the drive, more if you plan to do some hiking.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

BOATING To many people, the best way to see this beautiful, rugged country is from the river, where you can admire the scenery while crashing through thrilling white water and floating over smooth, silent stretches. About a dozen outfitters are authorized to **run the Yampa and Green rivers** through the monument, offering trips ranging from 1 to 5 days, usually from mid-May to mid-September. Among companies providing river trips are **Hatch River Expeditions** (✆ **800/342-8243** or 435/789-4316; www.hatchriver.com); and **Dinosaur River Expeditions** (✆ **800/345-7238** or 435/781-0717; www.dinoadv.com). Prices start at about $65 for a 1-day trip. A complete list of authorized river-running companies is available from monument headquarters (see "Information," under "Essentials," above).

FISHING You'll catch mostly catfish in the Green and Yampa rivers, although there are also some trout. Several endangered species of fish—including the razorback sucker and humpback chub—must be returned unharmed to the water if caught. You'll need either a Utah or Colorado fishing license (or both), depending on where you plan to fish.

HIKING Because most visitors spend their time at the quarry and along the scenic drives, hikers willing to exert a bit of effort can discover spectacular and dramatic views of the colorful canyons while enjoying an isolated and quiet wilderness experience. The best times for hiking are spring and fall, but even then, hikers should carry at least a gallon of water per person, per day.

In addition to several developed trails, experienced backcountry hikers with the appropriate maps can explore miles of unspoiled canyons and rock benches. Ask rangers about the numerous possibilities.

In the Utah section of the park, you'll find extreme solitude along the **Sound of Silence Trail,** a difficult 2.5-mile hike that leaves Cub Creek Road about 2 miles east of the Dinosaur Quarry. This trail is designed to help you learn how to find your own way in the desert, and is not always easy to follow.

The **Desert Voices Nature Trail,** a self-guided nature trail near the quarry, offers sweeping panoramic views and a section with signs created by kids for kids. This 1.5-mile (round-trip) hike is moderately difficult.

Visitors to the Colorado side of the park enjoy the **Cold Desert Trail,** which begins at the headquarters' visitor center. This easy .5-mile round-trip trail offers a good introduction to the natural history of this arid environment.

Panoramic vistas await visitors on the **Plug Hat Nature Trail,** an easy .25-mile round-trip hike that introduces you to the interactions between plants and animals in the piñon juniper forest. It's located along the Harpers Corner Scenic Drive.

The very popular **Harpers Corner Trail** ★ begins at the end of the Harpers Corner Scenic Drive. This 2-mile round-trip hike is moderately difficult and highly recommended for a magnificent view of the deep river canyons.

CAMPING

The **Green River Campground,** 5 miles east of the Dinosaur Quarry within park boundaries, has 88 RV and tent sites, modern restrooms, drinking water, tables, and fireplaces, but no showers or RV hookups. Park rangers often give campfire talks. Cost is $12 per night; it's open mid-April into October.

Several smaller campgrounds with limited facilities are also available in the park, with fees ranging from nothing to $8; check with the visitor centers.

3 Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area ★★

41 miles N of Vernal, 210 miles E of Salt Lake City

Tucked away in the far northeast corner of Utah and stretching up into Wyoming is **Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area,** one of the region's most scenic areas and a wonderful place for outdoor recreation. A dam was built on the Green River for flood control, water storage, and the generation of electricity, but a wonderful side effect was the creation of a huge and gorgeous lake—some 91 miles long, with more than 300 miles of shoreline—that has become one of the prime fishing and boating destinations of the region.

Here you'll find some of the best fishing in the West, well over 100 miles of hiking and mountain-biking trails, and hundreds of camp and picnic sites. It's a boater's paradise where you'll see everything from kayaks and canoes to ski and fishing boats to pontoons to gigantic houseboats with everything on board (including the kitchen sink).

Named by Major John Wesley Powell during his exploration of the Green and Colorado rivers in 1869, Flaming Gorge has a rugged, wild beauty that comes alive when the rising or setting sun paints the red rocks surrounding the lake with a fiery, brilliant palette. It's a land of clear blue water, colorful rocks, tall cliffs, dark forests, hot summer sun, and cold winter wind. It'll take more than a dam to tame Flaming Gorge.

ESSENTIALS

Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area lies in the northeast corner of Utah, crossing into the southwest corner of Wyoming. The dam and main visitor center, in the southeast section of the national recreation area, are 41 miles north of Vernal (210 miles east of Salt Lake City via U.S. 40).

GETTING THERE From Vernal and other points south, take U.S. 191 north to its intersection with Utah 44 at the southern edge of the reservoir. U.S. 191 goes up the east side of the reservoir, leading to the dam and the community of Dutch John; Utah 44 goes around the reservoir on the west side, eventually ending at the village of Manila. Both of these towns offer accommodations, restaurants, fuel, and other services.

From I-80 in Wyoming, follow U.S. 191 south around the reservoir's east side to the dam; or Wyo. 530 and Utah highways 43 and 44 to Manila and the west and south sides of the reservoir.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER The recreation area is administered by the Ashley National Forest. For information, contact the **District Ranger,** Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, USDA Forest Service, Box 279, Manila, UT 84046 (✆ **435/784-3445;** fax 435/781-5295; www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley). The **Intermountain Natural History Association,** 1291 E. U.S. 40, Vernal, UT 84078 (✆ **800/845-3466;** www.inhaweb.com), sells maps, books, and other publications.

The **Flaming Gorge Dam Visitor Center** (✆ **435/885-3135**), along U.S. 191 on the east side of the recreation area, is open 8am to 6pm in summer, 9am to 5pm spring and fall, and is closed November through March. Here you'll find information on the geology, history, flora, and fauna of the area; the construction of the dam; and facilities and recreation possibilities.

FEES & REGULATIONS Entry to the recreation area is $2 for 1 day or $5 for up to 16 days. Administered by the U.S. Forest Service, regulations here are based mostly

on common sense, and are aimed at preserving water quality and protecting the forest and historic sites. Utah and Wyoming fishing and boating regulations apply in those states' sections of the recreation area, and the appropriate fishing licenses are required. Dogs are allowed on hiking trails but are not permitted in buildings and should be leashed at all times.

SEASONS/AVOIDING THE CROWDS As one would expect, summer is the busy season at this major boating destination, when both the air and water are at their warmest. This is the best time to come for watersports, and with elevations from 5,600 to over 8,000 feet, it never gets as hot here as it does in many other parts of Utah. Although summer is the busiest time of year, this remains a relatively undiscovered destination, and you will likely have no trouble finding campsites, lodging, or boat rentals. Hikers will enjoy the area in fall. During the cold, snowy winter, this is a popular snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and ice-fishing destination.

EXPLORING FLAMING GORGE BY CAR

Numerous viewpoints are situated along U.S. 191 and Utah 44 in the Utah section of Flaming Gorge; especially dramatic is the **Red Canyon Overlook** on the southern edge, where a rainbow of colors adorns 1,000-foot-tall cliffs. Another great overlook is **Dowd Mountain.** In Wyoming, highways are farther from the lake, offering few opportunities to see the river and its canyons.

Sheep Creek Canyon, south of Manila on the western side, has been designated a special geological area by the Forest Service because of its dramatically twisted and upturned rocks. A mostly paved 11-mile loop road cuts off from Utah 44, offering a half-hour tour of this beautiful, narrow canyon, with its lavish display of rocks that have eroded into intricate patterns, a process that began with the uplifting of the Uinta Mountains millions of years ago. This loop may be closed in winter; check at the visitor center before heading out.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

BIKING A number of mountain-biking trails provide splendid views of the recreation area's scenery, especially in the Utah section. Bikes are permitted in most of Flaming Gorge and adjacent Ashley National Forest, except in the High Uintas Wilderness, where all wheeled vehicles are prohibited. Bikes are also restricted, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, on a section of the Little Hole National Recreation Trail along the Green River below the dam, due to very heavy use by anglers and hikers. Keep in mind that mountain bikers here often share trails with hikers, horses, and four-wheelers. A free mountain-biking brochure is available at visitor centers.

For a scenic and fairly easy ride, try the 5-mile one-way **Red Canyon Rim Trail.** This single track follows the south rim of the canyon, providing terrific views of the lake 1,700 feet below. Deer and elk are frequently seen in the forested areas. Watch also for interpretive signs on area wildlife and the ecosystem. Trail heads and parking are located at Red Canyon Visitor Center, Red Canyon Lodge, and Greendale Overlook.

Death Valley Trail, a moderately difficult 15-mile round-trip ride, offers good views of the Uinta Mountains and ends with a fine view of the lake from the top of Sheep Creek Hill. The trail head is located along Utah 44, south of Manila, at milepost 16.5.

Rentals of full-suspension mountain bikes are available at **Red Canyon Lodge** (✆ **435/889-3759**) at rates of $10 for 1 hour, $20 for a half-day, and $35 for a full day. The lodge also sponsors a mountain-bike festival each year in early August.

Impressions

The river enters the range by a flaring, brilliant red gorge, that may be seen from the north a score of miles away . . . We name it Flaming Gorge.

—Explorer Major John Wesley Powell, May 26, 1869

BOATING & HOUSEBOATING Boaters get to enjoy a unique perspective of some memorable scenery, with magnificent fiery red canyons surrounding the lake in the Utah section, and the wide-open Wyoming badlands farther north.

Three marinas on **Lake Flaming Gorge** provide boat rentals, fuel, launching ramps, and boating and fishing supplies. **Cedar Springs Marina** (✆ **435/889-3795;** www.cedarspringsmarina.com) is located 2 miles west of Flaming Gorge Dam; **Lucerne Valley Marina** (✆ **435/784-3483;** www.flaminggorge.com) is on the west side of the lake, 7 miles east of Manila; and **Buckboard Marina** (✆ **307/875-6927**) is also on the west side of the lake, off Wyo. 530, 22 miles north of Manila.

Nine boat ramps serve those who bring their own craft; boat and water-ski rentals are available at all three marinas. Although types of boats and costs vary, a 14-foot fishing boat with a small outboard motor usually costs about $100 per day, an 18-foot ski boat with a powerful outboard motor costs about $200 to $250 per day, and a 24-foot pontoon boat with a 50-horsepower outboard motor will cost about $200 per day. Partial day rentals are also available. At Lucerne Valley Marina, a 36-foot houseboat costs about $800 for 3 nights during the summer, with discounts in spring and fall. For all boat rentals, life jackets are included but fuel is extra.

Nonmotorized boating is permitted on a 20-acre private lake at Red Canyon Lodge (p. 192), where you can rent canoes, rowboats, and paddle boats. Rates are $8 for 1 hour, $15 for a half-day, and $25 for a full day.

Dinosaur River Expeditions (✆ **800/345-7238** or 435/781-0717; www.dinoadv.com) offers a 1-day raft trip for $65 for adults, $48 for kids 7 to 12, and free for kids under 7.

FISHING You might want to bring along a muscular friend if you plan to fish Lake Flaming Gorge, which is becoming famous as a place to catch record-breaking trout, such as the 51-pound, 8-ounce lake (Mackinaw) trout caught in 1988; the 26-pound, 2-ounce rainbow caught in 1979; and the 33-pound, 10-ounce German brown caught in 1977. You'll see other cold-water species such as smallmouth bass and kokanee salmon. Fishing is popular year-round, although ice-fishermen are warned to make sure the ice is strong enough to hold them.

Cedar Springs and Lucerne Valley marinas (see "Boating & Houseboating," above) offer a variety of fishing guide services. Typical rates for one or two people in a guided trip aboard a sportfishing boat are $350 for a day, including fishing gear but not fishing licenses. Also providing guided fishing trips on the lake, in a 28-foot sportfishing boat, with state-of-the-art fish-finding and GPS equipment, is Bruce Parker of **Conquest Expeditions** ★★, P.O. Box 487, Manila, UT 84046 (✆ **435/784-3370;** www.conquestexpeditions.com). His rates for a 4-hour fishing trip, with all equipment (but not fishing licenses), are $250 for one or two people and $350 for three or four people. Rates for an 8-hour fishing trip are $425 for one or two people, $525 for three or four.

Trout fishing on the Green River below the dam is also outstanding. **Flaming Gorge Recreation Services,** based in Dutch John (✆ **435/885-3191;** www.fglodge.com), offers guided fishing trips for one or two people, with rates of about $260 for a half-day float trip, $375 for a full day. A complete list of guides is available at the Flaming Gorge Dam Visitor Center.

You'll also find two private stocked lakes at **Red Canyon Lodge** (p. 192), one with a fully accessible fishing pier, and both open to catch-and-release fishing only. No state fishing license is needed, but a Red Canyon Lodge permit is required (free for guests, $5 for nonguests). There is also a free kids' fishing pond in front of the lodge's restaurant.

HIKING Many of the trails here offer spectacular, scenic views of the reservoir and its colorful canyons. Remember, though, that in most cases you'll be sharing the trail with mountain bikers, and in some cases horses and four-wheel-drive vehicles as well.

The **Red Canyon Rim Trail** runs 5 miles (one-way) from the Red Canyon Visitor Center to the Greendale Rest Area, accessible from either of those points or at Green's Lake or Canyon Rim campgrounds. The trail wanders through a forest of Douglas fir and pine, with stops along the canyon rim providing outstanding views of the lake far below (see also "Biking," above).

For an easy 3-mile round-trip hike to an overlook offering a fine view of the lake, try the **Bootleg Trail,** which starts just off U.S. 191 opposite Firefighters Memorial Campground, 3 miles south of the dam.

One trail popular with hikers is the **Little Hole National Recreation Trail,** which runs about 7 miles from the dam spillway downstream to Little Hole, where you'll find fishing platforms and picnic areas. The trail is easy to moderate and offers splendid vistas of the Green River, which appears to be a mere ribbon of emerald when seen from the cliffs above. This is a good trail for birders, who may spot osprey in summer and bald eagles in winter.

Hikers can also use the mountain-biking trails listed above. A free hiking-trails brochure is available at the visitor centers.

HORSEBACK RIDING Many of the more than 100 miles of trails in Flaming Gorge are open to riders. Guided rides are available from **Red Canyon Stables** at Red Canyon Lodge (p. 192), with prices starting at $15 for a 1-hour ride and $55 for a half-day. Rates for children under 12 are about 15% less; children must be at least 6 years old to go on rides of 1 or more hours. Children of any age can take stable rides for $9.95, which includes a souvenir photo. Overnight backcountry trips are also offered, starting at $150 per person per day.

Moments Wildlife in Abundance

Flaming Gorge is one of the best places in Utah to see a wide variety of wildlife. Boaters should watch for osprey, peregrine falcons, swifts, and swallows along the cliffs. Bighorn sheep are sometimes spotted clambering on the rocky cliffs on the north side of the lake in spring and early summer. On land, be on the lookout for pronghorn antelope year-round along the west side of the lake, particularly in Lucerne Valley and in the campground. Hikers on the Little Hole National Recreation Trail should keep their eyes peeled for a variety of birds, including bald eagles in winter.

SWIMMING Sometimes you've just got to dive right in, even though the water is pretty cold. Lake Flaming Gorge has two designated swimming areas: Sunny Cove, just north of the dam, and Lucerne Beach, a mile west of Lucerne Campground. Neither has a lifeguard.

WINTER SPORTS Ice-fishing is popular, but check with rangers first for ice conditions. Also popular from mid-January until the snow melts are cross-country skiing, snowshoeing (an excellent way to see wildlife), and snowmobiling. At Red Canyon Lodge, you can rent snowshoes for $5 per hour, $10 per half-day, or $15 per day. Flaming Gorge Lodge rents complete cross-country ski packages for $5 per day and snowmobiles starting at $120 per day. See p. 192 for the lodges' contact information.

MAN-MADE ATTRACTIONS

FLAMING GORGE DAM & POWER PLANT

Completed in 1963 at a cost of $50 million for the dam and another $65 million for the power plant, Flaming Gorge is part of the Colorado River Storage Project, which also includes Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River along the Arizona–Utah border, Navajo Dam on the San Juan River in New Mexico, and a series of three dams on the Gunnison River in Colorado. At full capacity, the lake is 91 miles long and holds almost 4 million acre-feet of water. The dam, constructed in an arch shape for strength, is 1,285 feet long and stands some 450 feet tall; its three turbine generators can produce 152,000 kilowatts of electricity, enough to take care of the needs of 210,000 people.

The dam and power plant are open for free guided tours daily from April to early November. The total round-trip walking distance is just under half a mile. Check at the visitor center for the hours and times of the hour-long guided tours. You'll walk along the crest of the dam, then take an elevator ride to the power plant below, where you'll see the inner workings of the hydroelectric plant, with its huge transformers, generators, and turbines.

SWETT RANCH HISTORIC SITE

This homestead, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was constructed by Oscar Swett starting in 1909, and contains two cabins, a five-room house, a meat house, a root cellar, sheds, a granary, and a barn, built and improved upon over a period of 58 years. Swett and his wife, Emma, raised nine children here, running the 397-acre ranch using only horse and human muscle power, before selling the property in 1968. From Utah 44, take U.S. 191 north for a half-mile and turn west (left) onto Forest Road 158, which you follow 1½ miles to the ranch. The unpaved Forest Road is muddy when wet, and not recommended for large RVs or trailers at any time. The ranch is open for guided tours only, Thursday through Monday from Memorial Day to Labor Day only (check with the visitor center for hours). Admission is free. Allow about an hour.

CAMPING

U.S. Forest Service campgrounds are located throughout Flaming Gorge Recreation Area, and they range from primitive sites to modern facilities with showers (open in summer only) and flush toilets, but no RV hookups. Some are open year-round, others in summer only. Most sites cost $14 to $17. The more developed (and expensive) sites, including our favorite campground here, Deer Run, include use of the showers (those camping in the cheap spots get to pay $3 for a shower). Campsite reservations are available through the **National Recreation Reservation Service** (✆ **877/444-6777** or 518/885-3639; TDD 877/833-6777; www.reserveusa.com). Dispersed forest

camping (with no facilities) is free; check with forest service personnel for suggested locations. RV dump stations are located in several locations in the recreation area (check at the visitor center).

Commercial campgrounds with full RV hookups are located in Vernal (see section 1, earlier in this chapter). In Manila, you'll find a **KOA campground** (✆ **800/562-3254** or 435/784-3184), open from mid-April through mid-October, that charges about $20 for tent sites and $25 to $30 for RV sites. It also has cabins at $35 to $45 per night.

WHERE TO STAY

In addition to the lodging suggestions below, see the "Where to Stay" section in "Vernal: Gateway to the Region's Top Recreational Areas," earlier in this chapter.

Flaming Gorge Lodge A location close to everything you'll want to do makes this well-maintained property a good choice for those seeking a modern motel room or a one-bedroom condominium. Motel rooms come with two double beds and an optional roll-away; condo units contain one queen-size bed, a single, and a hide-a-bed, plus a fully equipped kitchen. Facilities include a restaurant that serves three meals daily, a gas station, raft and mountain-bike rentals, a liquor and convenience store, and a fly and tackle shop. Guided fishing trips on the Green River are available, and the lodge offers personal watercraft rentals in the summer and snowmobile rentals in the winter (p. 189).

155 Greendale, U.S. 191 (4 miles south of Flaming Gorge Dam), Dutch John, UT 84023-9702. ✆ **435/889-3773.** Fax 435/889-3788. www.fglodge.com. 45 units. Mar–Oct $83–$123 double; Nov–Feb $67–$97 double. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Activities desk. *In room:* A/C, TV/VCR, kitchen in larger units.

Red Canyon Lodge ★★ A variety of delightful cabins, including some handsome new ones built in 2003, offer a range of possibilities. All have private bathrooms, two queen-size beds, a separate living room, minifridges, limited cooking facilities, vaulted ceilings, and covered porches. Some also have free-standing wood stoves (free firewood provided), kitchenettes, and custom wood furniture. Lower-priced units have showers only; the more expensive rooms have tub/shower combos. The lodge offers two private lakes plus a kids' fishing pond; boat and mountain-bike rentals; hiking and mountain-biking trails; horseback rides (p. 190); a restaurant (see below); and a convenience store.

790 Red Canyon Rd. (turn off Utah 44 at milepost 3.5), Dutch John, UT 84023. ✆ **435/889-3759.** Fax 435/889-5106. www.redcanyonlodge.com. 28 units. $99–$130 double. AE, DISC, MC, V. Dogs allowed. **Amenities:** Activities desk. *In room:* Some kitchenettes, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer.

WHERE TO DINE

Red Canyon Lodge Dining Room AMERICAN For locals and visitors alike, this is a popular spot—especially the patio on nice summer days. You'll find a classic mountain-lodge atmosphere, along with views of tall pines and a small lake. Our top choices here include the wild boar spareribs and the elk medallions with black cherry sauce. The menu also features steaks, chicken (try the mildly spicy Szechuan chicken pasta), fish, and slow-roasted prime rib. There are also nightly fine dining specials, such as the broiled salmon filet with a hollandaise sauce. You'll also find standard American breakfasts, and burgers and sandwiches at lunch. Full liquor service is available.

In Red Canyon Lodge. ✆ **435/889-3759.** Reservations accepted for large parties only. Main courses $4–$10 breakfast and lunch, $8–$25 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Apr to mid-Oct daily 7am–10pm; mid-Oct to Mar Fri 4–9pm, Sat 8am–9pm, Sun 8am–4pm.

10

Utah's Dixie & the Colorful Southwest Corner

Small lakes and big rocks, golf courses and ski areas, Shakespeare and the latest special effects—you'll find it all in the southwest corner of Utah, dubbed "Color Country" by the locals for its numerous and colorful rock formations. In addition to the attractions, another reason to visit is the warm winter weather: The region's largest city, St. George, and its immediate surroundings are known as "Utah's Dixie" for the area's mild climate as well as its previous life as a Civil War–era cotton growing region. Color Country is a terrific winter playground; there's no need to ever put away the golf clubs or swimsuits in this neighborhood.

You'll find plenty to see and do in this colorful corner of Utah. Step back more than a hundred years at Mormon leader Brigham Young's winter home or cheer on the Dixie State College Rebels football team. Our favorite stops are outdoors: the rugged red-rock cliffs at Snow Canyon State Park, the ruddy sands of Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, and the panoramic views from Cedar Breaks National Monument. This area is also a good base for those visiting the area's national parks, including Grand Canyon (pick up a copy of *Frommer's Grand Canyon*), Great Basin, and Zion (see chapter 11).

This region isn't only a warm-weather destination, though. Its range of elevations means you can often lounge around the pool in the morning and build a snowman that same afternoon. From the scorching desert at St. George, it's only 74 miles—and almost 7,500 feet up—to the cool mountain forest at Cedar Breaks National Monument. Home to a variety of scenic and recreation areas (you'll even find ski resorts here), a surprising number of historic attractions, and some excellent performing arts events (such as the Utah Shakespearean Festival in Cedar City), this area also serves as the gateway to several of the area's spectacular national parks.

In recent years, St. George has been booming, with Washington County's population jumping 30% from 2000 to 2005. More than a few Californians have retired here after falling in love with the climate—and the real estate prices. But the growth hasn't changed everything. There are still wide open expanses, the winters are still mild, and the surroundings still starkly beautiful.

1 Getting Outdoors in Utah's Color Country

This is Utah's playground, a year-round mecca for hikers, mountain bikers, golfers, boaters, anglers, and anybody else who just wants to get outdoors. Among the top spots for experiencing nature at its best are Cedar Breaks National Monument, a high-mountain oasis of towering pines and firs, with wildflowers galore; and state parks such as Snow Canyon, Coral Pink Sand Dunes, and Quail Creek.

The best seasons for outdoor activities here are based on elevation. In St. George and other lowlands, spring and fall are best, winter's okay, and summer is worst, because temperatures soar well over 100°F (38°C). However, not everyone says no to St. George in summer: Its desert climate makes it the **golfing** capital of Utah. The Sunbrook is considered the state's best course, with a challenging layout and spectacular views of the White Hills, but you can also stay a week in St. George and play a different course each day. On the other side of the seasonal coin, don't try to drive up the mountains to Cedar Breaks until June at the earliest or mid-October at the latest; the roads will be closed by snow.

A good way to see this part of Utah is on foot. **Hiking** trails abound throughout the Dixie and Fishlake national forests north of St. George. But you'll discover several of the best trails in state parks, particularly Snow Canyon State Park near St. George, and in the nearby national parks.

Biking here generally means **mountain biking.** Even when riding in the city, you never know when you're going to discover a great little trail turning off into the red-rock desert or up into alpine meadows. The best mountain biking is at Brian Head Resort. Both road and mountain bikes can take you to beautiful areas in and around Snow Canyon State Park near St. George.

For an area with so much desert, there's a lot of **boating** here: Utahns have created reservoirs to provide the desert and its residents with drinking and irrigation water. The best boating is at Quail Creek State Park near St. George; but for a bit more solitude try the relatively undeveloped Gunlock State Park, near Quail Creek State Park, or Minersville State Park, west of Beaver. The top **fishing** hole in these parts is Quail Creek State Park, but there are plenty of smaller lakes and hidden streams in the national forests.

Off-road vehicles can simply be a means to get to an isolated fishing stream or hiking trail, or part of the adventure itself. The old mining and logging roads in the national forests are great for four-wheel exploring. Visitors with dune buggies will want to challenge the shifting dunes at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, just outside Kanab.

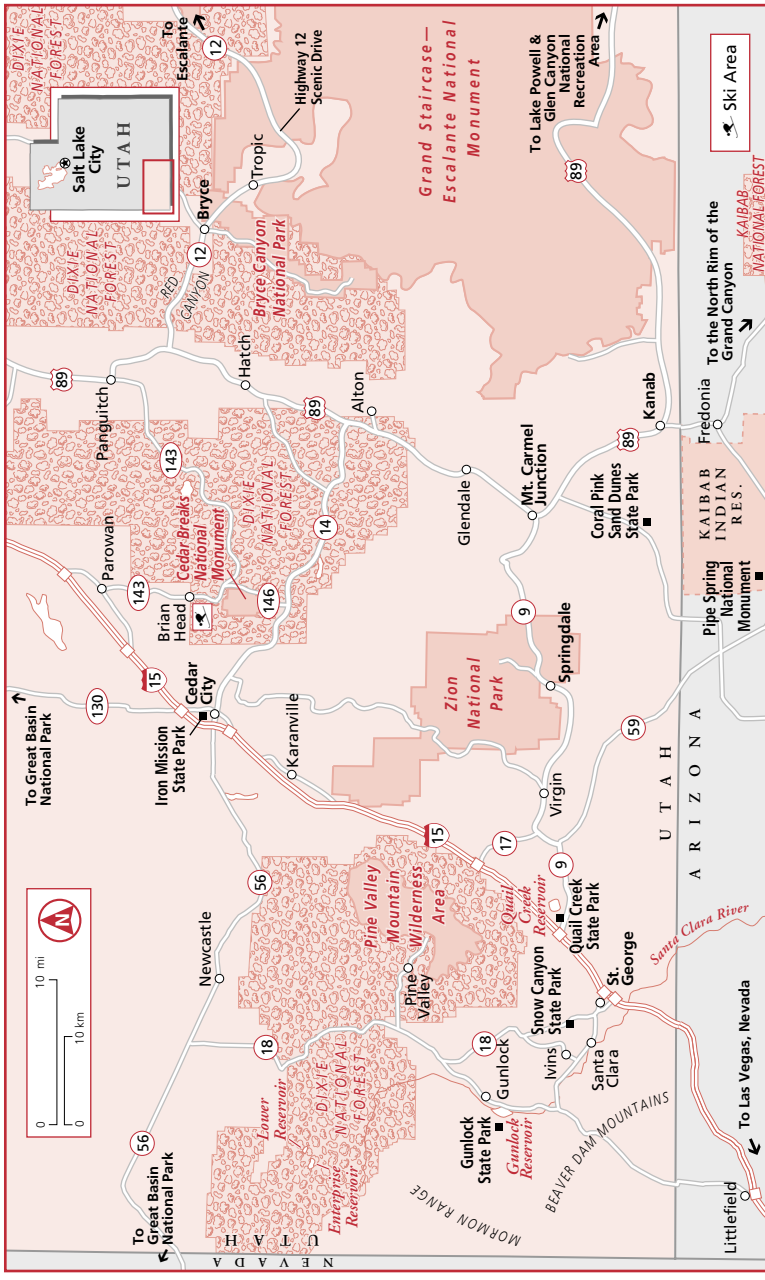
An abundance of **wildlife** makes its home in this part of the state. Sure, you'll see deer, squirrels, chipmunks, and other furry creatures at Cedar Breaks National Monument and the area's national parks, but there's also animal life in the desert, including our favorites: the luminescent scorpions at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park and the Gila monster at Snow Canyon State Park, also home to numerous songbirds.

It may be hot down in the desert, but there's plenty of snow up on those mountaintops, and the **skiing** is great at Brian Head Resort. In winter, cross-country skiers and snowshoers will want to head to nearby Cedar Breaks National Monument after the snow closes the roads to cars.

2 St. George: Gateway to Southern Utah's Natural Wonders

120 miles NE of Las Vegas, Nevada, 305 miles SW of Salt Lake City

In the fall of 1861, Brigham Young sent 309 families to establish a cotton-growing community in the semi-arid Virgin River Valley. Today, St. George has more than 60,000 inhabitants. Life in St. George, known as one of Utah's more conservative communities, is still strongly influenced by the Mormon church. At an elevation of 2,800 feet, the town is also a winter home to many snowbirds—not the feathered variety, but humans who annually flee the snow and cold of more northern climes for this


Salt Lake City
UTAH
DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST
To Escalante
Highway 12 Scenic Drive
Tropic
Bryce
Bryce Canyon National Park
RED CANYON
Hatch
Alton
Panguitch
Parowan
Brian Head
Cedar Breaks National Monument
DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST
Grand Staircase—Escalante National Monument
To Lake Powell & Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Glendale
Mt. Carmel Junction
Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park
Kanab
Fredonia
To the North Rim of the Grand Canyon
KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST
KAIBAB INDIAN RES.
Pipe Spring National Monument
Ski Area
To Great Basin National Park
Iron Mission State Park
Cedar City
Karanville
Zion National Park
Springdale
Virgin
Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area
Pine Valley
Newcastle
Quail Creek Reservoir
Quail Creek State Park
Snow Canyon State Park
St. George
Santa Clara River
Ivins
Santa Clara
Gunlock
Gunlock State Park
Gunlock Reservoir
Lower Enterprise Reservoir
BEAVER DAM MOUNTAINS
MORMON RANGE
To Las Vegas, Nevada
Littlefield
NEVADA
UTAH
ARIZONA
0 10 mi
0 10 km

region's gentle winters. Despite the climate, this desert city appears quite green, with tree-lined streets and lovely grassy areas. You'll find more than a half-dozen golf courses, along with recreational and cultural facilities to suit most every taste.

St. George is also the gateway to some of the most spectacular scenery in the West. Zion, Bryce, and Grand Canyon national parks are within relatively easy driving distance, as are Cedar Breaks and Pipe Springs national monuments and Snow Canyon, Gunlock, and Quail Creek state parks. Depending on your itinerary, St. George may be the largest town that you stop in en route to Lake Powell and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Capitol Reef National Park, and the prehistoric Indian sites in the Four Corners area.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE The closest major airport is **McCarran International Airport,** in Las Vegas (✆ **702/261-5211;** www.mccarran.com). Most major airlines fly into McCarran, where you can rent a car and drive the 120 miles northeast on I-15 to St. George. The **St. George Shuttle** (✆ **800/933-8320** or 435/628-8320; www.stgshuttle.com) provides daily van service to and from the Las Vegas airport ($25 each way), and also offers transportation between St. George and Salt Lake City ($55 one-way, $105 round-trip); reservations are required.

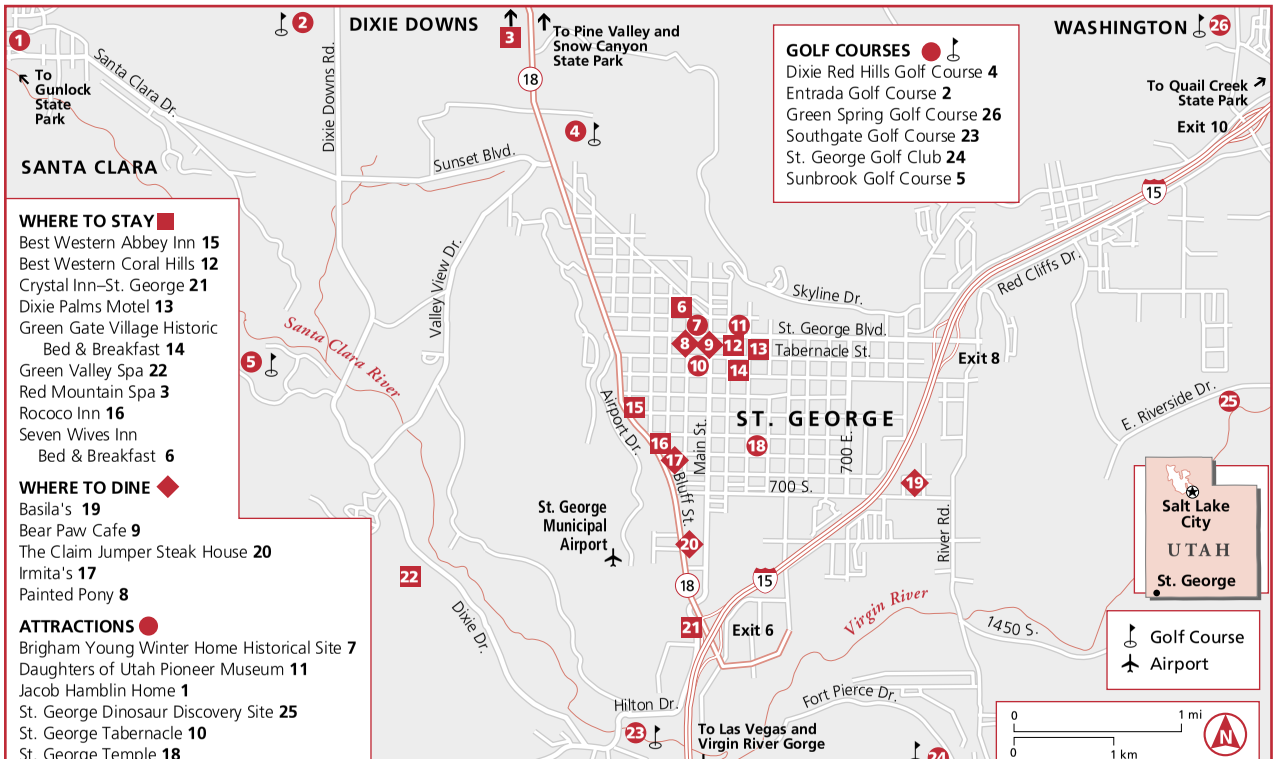
St. George Municipal Airport, located on a bluff on the west side of the city, is served by **United** (✆ **800/241-6522**) to Los Angeles and **Delta** (✆ **800/221-1212**) to Salt Lake City. Both routes are operated by **SkyWest Airlines** (✆ **435/634-3480;** www.skywest.com). A new airport is expected to open in the same area in 2007.

St. George is on I-15. Take exit 6 (Bluff St.) or 8 (St. George Blvd.).

VISITOR INFORMATION Before your trip, contact the **St. George Area Chamber of Commerce** (✆ **435/628-1658;** www.stgeorgechamber.com) for a visitor's guide. When you get into town, you'll find an information center operated by the chamber in the historic Pioneer Courthouse, 97 E. St. George Blvd. It's open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm, and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. A good online resource is **www.utahsdixie.com**.

For information on the state and national parks in the area, as well as Dixie National Forest and land administered by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, stop by the **Interagency Office and Visitor Center,** 345 E. Riverside Dr. (✆ **435/688-3246;** www.fs.fed.us/r4; www.nps.gov; www.ut.blm.gov). This is a good place to ask questions about the area's public lands, get trail recommendations, and pick up backcountry permits for the Grand Canyon. A variety of free brochures are available; and maps, books, posters, and videos are for sale. To get there, take I-15 exit 6 and turn east. The center is open Monday through Friday 7:45am to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 3pm; closed Sundays.

GETTING AROUND The street grid system is centered on the point at which Tabernacle Street (running east-west) crosses Main Street (running north-south), with numbered streets increasing in each direction by hundreds. St. George Boulevard takes the place of 100 North, Bluff Street runs along a bluff at the western edge of the city, I-15 cuts through in a northeast direction (from exit 6 at the south end of Bluff St. to exit 8 at the east end of St. George Blvd.), and River Road lies at the eastern edge, becoming Red Cliffs Road north of St. George Boulevard. Other than that, the system stays true to the grid.


SANTA CLARA
DIXIE DOWNS
WASHINGTON
ST. GEORGE
To Gunlock State Park
Santa Clara Dr.
Dixie Downs Rd.
To Pine Valley and Snow Canyon State Park
Sunset Blvd.
Valley View Dr.
Santa Clara River
Skyline Dr.
St. George Blvd.
Tabernacle St.
Red Cliffs Dr.
To Quail Creek State Park
Exit 10
Exit 8
E. Riverside Dr.
Airport Dr.
Main St.
Bluff St.
700 E.
700 S.
River Rd.
St. George Municipal Airport
Dixie Dr.
Exit 6
Virgin River
1450 S.
Hilton Dr.
Fort Pierce Dr.
To Las Vegas and Virgin River Gorge
Salt Lake City
UTAH
St. George
Golf Course
Airport
0
1 mi
0
1 km
N
GOLF COURSES
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Car-rental agencies with offices in St. George include **ABC,** 33 N. 400 East St. (✆ **435/628-7355**); **Avis,** St. George Municipal Airport (✆ **435/627-2002;** www.avis.com); **Budget,** St. George Municipal Airport (✆ **435/673-6825;** www.budgetrentacar.com); **National,** St. George Municipal Airport (✆ **435/673-5098;** www.nationalcar.com); **Enterprise,** 652 E. St. George Blvd. (✆ **435/634-1556**); and **Hertz,** at St. George Municipal Airport (✆ **435/652-9941**), and at 166 W. 1700 South St. (✆ **435/674-4789;** www.hertz.com).

Free on-street parking is available in much of the city, and many of the streets are tree-lined and shady.

For a taxi, call **Quality Cab** (✆ **435/656-5222**).

FAST FACTS One of the larger hospitals in this part of the state is **Dixie Regional Medical Center,** 544 S. 400 East (✆ **435/634-4000**), which provides 24-hour emergency care. The **post office** is located at 180 N. Main St. (✆ **800/275-8777** for hours and other information). The regional **newspaper** is the *Daily Spectrum.*

ATTRACTIONS

Most visitors head to St. George for rest and relaxation at the spas, golf courses, and area parks, but there's also a good deal of history in these parts, not to mention prehistory: The **St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm,** 2180 E. Riverside Dr. (✆ **435/574-3466**), showcases 2,000 fossilized tracks left by dinosaurs of all kinds when the area sat on the edge of an enormous lake. It is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 8pm (6pm in winter).

DISCOVERING MORMON HISTORY IN & AROUND ST. GEORGE

Because the LDS Church was the primary driving force in the settlement of St. George, it should come as no surprise that most of the sightseeing in town is church-related. At the town's historic buildings, staffed by knowledgeable church members, you'll learn about the church as well as the specific sites; expect a little sales pitch on the benefits of Christianity in general and the Mormon faith in particular.

Brigham Young Winter Home Historical Site Church leader Brigham Young was one of St. George's first snowbirds. He escaped the Salt Lake City cold during the last few winters of his life by coming south to this house. In addition to its obvious religious importance, this home is a handsome example of how the well-to-do of the late 19th century lived. Allow about a half-hour for the guided tour.

67 W. 200 North. ✆ **435/673-5181.** Free guided tours. Summer daily 9am–7pm; rest of year daily 9am–6pm. From I-15 exit 8, head west on St. George Blvd., turn right (north) onto Main St., and turn left (west) onto 200 North.

Daughters of Utah Pioneer Museum This museum contains an eclectic collection of items that belonged to the pioneers—including a bed used by Brigham Young, plus spinning wheels, an 1894 loom, guns, tools, musical instruments, and other relics from bygone days. Historic photos, mostly of pioneer families, are on display, and copies are available for purchase. Guided tours are given by volunteers from the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Allow at least a half-hour.

145 N. 100 East. ✆ **435/628-7274.** Free admission; donations accepted. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm. Closed 2nd Mon of Dec to 2nd week of Jan. From I-15 exit 8, head west on St. George Blvd. and turn right (north) at 100 East.

Jacob Hamblin Home ★ This stone-and-pine house, built in 1862, is closer to what you'd think of as a pioneer home than most of the refined houses of St. George, and it's typical of pioneer homes throughout the West—except for one aspect that is definitively Mormon: It has two identical bedrooms, one for each of Hamblin's wives.

You'll also notice that the dining table is set in typical Mormon fashion, with plates upside down and chairs facing away from the table to facilitate kneeling for before-meal prayers. The guided tour lasts about a half-hour.

Santa Clara Blvd. and Hamblin Dr., Santa Clara. ✆ **435/673-5181.** Free guided tours. Summer daily 9am–7pm; rest of year daily 9am–6pm. From St. George, go 3 miles west on U.S. 91 to the community of Santa Clara; watch for sign.

Pine Valley Chapel This handsome white chapelwas built in 1868 by Ebenezer Bryce (for whom Bryce Canyon National Park was named) and Lorenzo and Erastus Snow (for whom Snow Canyon State Park was named). The settlers of the Pine Valley logging and saw-milling community wanted to build a church that would also function as a school and community building. Bryce was approached to design it, and because of his experience as a shipbuilder, he laid out the structure as an upside-down boat. Each of the walls was constructed flat on the ground, then lifted up and tied at the corners with strips of rawhide. The chapel was constructed of local pine and ponderosa, and set on a foundation of granite and red limestone.

50 W. Main St., Pine Valley. ✆ **435/574-3202** for information. Free guided tours. Memorial Day to Labor Day Mon–Sat 11am–5pm; Sun 1–5pm. Closed rest of year. From St. George, go north on Utah 18 to Central and head east on Forest Rd. 035.

St. George Tabernacle ★ This is the most beautiful building in St. George—an excellent example of fine old-world craftsmanship, from the hand-quarried red stone walls to the intricate interior woodwork. Its craftsmen finished pine, which was all they had, to look like exotic hardwoods and even marble. Completed in 1876 after 13 years of work, the Tabernacle served as a house of worship and town meeting hall. During the 1880s, when a nearby silver strike brought many Catholics to the area, the Tabernacle was used for a Roman Catholic High Mass led by a Roman Catholic priest, but with music from the liturgy sung by the local Mormon choir—in Latin. Today, the Tabernacle functions as a community center, presenting free weekly concerts and other cultural events (see "St. George After Dark," later in this chapter). The guided tour takes about half an hour.

18 S. Main St. at Tabernacle St. ✆ **435/673-5181.** Free guided tours. Summer daily 9am–6pm; rest of year daily 9am–5pm. From I-15 exit 8, head west on St. George Blvd. and turn left at Main St.

St. George Temple Completed in 1877, St. George Temple was the first Mormon temple in Utah, and is the world's oldest still in use today. The majestic white temple is not open to the general public, but you can walk among the beautiful gardens and stop at the visitor center south of the temple for a tour of the center's exhibits and a multimedia program on the beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

490 S. 300 East. ✆ **435/673-5181.** Temple not open to the public; free guided tours of visitor center exhibits. Daily 9am–9pm. From I-15 exit 8, head west on St. George Blvd. to 200 East, turn left (south) and go about 6 blocks.

SNOW CANYON STATE PARK

Among Utah's most scenic state parks, **Snow Canyon** ★★★ offers an abundance of opportunities for photography and hiking. The park is surrounded by rock cliffs and walls of Navajo sandstone in shades of red, layered with white and black from ancient lava flows. Hike the trails and discover shifting sand dunes, mysterious lava caves, colorful desert plants, and a variety of rock formations. You'll also see an attractive cactus garden and several ancient petroglyphs (ask park rangers for directions).

Because the summers here are hot—well over 100°F (38°C)—the best time to visit is any other time. Winters are mild, but nights can be chilly. Spring and fall are usually

perfect weather-wise, and therefore the busiest. By the way, don't come looking for snow—Snow Canyon was named for pioneers Lorenzo and Erastus Snow, who discovered the canyon.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE The park is 11 miles northwest of St. George, off Utah 18.

INFORMATION, FEES & REGULATIONS For a copy of the park's brochure, contact **Snow Canyon State Park,** 1002 Snow Canyon Dr., Ivins, UT 84738 (✆ **435/628-2255;** www.stateparks.utah.gov). Day-use fee is $5. As in most state parks, dogs are welcome, even on trails, but must be leashed.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

HIKING The best way to see Snow Canyon is on foot. Several short trails make for easy full- or half-day hikes. The **Hidden Piñon Trail** ★ is a 1.5-mile round-trip self-guided nature trail that wanders among lava rocks, through several canyons, and onto rocky flatlands, offering panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. The trail begins across the highway from the park's campground; you can pick up a brochure at the park office/entrance station. The walk is fairly easy, but allow at least an hour, especially if you're planning to keep an eye out for local vegetation such as Mormon tea, cliffrose, prickly pear cactus, and banana yucca.

An easy 2-mile round-trip is **Johnson Canyon Trail.** It begins just south of the campground, passes the popular rock-climbing wall and some low sand dunes, and then leads into Johnson Canyon and a view of Johnson Arch (both named after pioneer wife Maude Johnson) spanning 200 feet high above.

The **Lava Flow Overlook Trail,** a 1.5-mile round-trip, starts just north of the campground. There are caves about a half-mile along the trail, but watch carefully—it's easy to miss them. The caves were formed from liquid lava, and American Indian tribes have at times occupied the large rooms. Another quarter-mile past the caves is the **West Canyon Overlook,** with a breathtaking view into West Canyon.

Several longer and steeper trails lead to spectacular views of the canyons and distant vistas; check with park rangers for details.

MOUNTAIN BIKING Although bicycling is not allowed on park trails, West Canyon Road is open to mountain biking. The 7-mile round-trip road lies just west of the park; ask park rangers for directions. You can rent bikes at Bicycles Unlimited (p. 201).

ROCK CLIMBING Climbers love the tall wall of rock on the east side of the road just south of the campground. Check with the park office for information.

WILDLIFE WATCHING You're likely to see cottontail rabbits, ground squirrels, and songbirds; luckier visitors may also spot desert mule deer, bobcats, coyote, kit foxes, eagles, and owls. Although it's unlikely, you may see a desert tortoise (a federally listed threatened species) or Gila monster. Snow Canyon is also home to some rattlesnakes.

CAMPING

The 36-site campground is one of the best in the state. One section has rather closely spaced sites with electric hookups; those not needing electricity can set up camp in delightful little side canyons, surrounded by colorful red rocks and Utah juniper. The views are spectacular no matter where you choose to set up. Facilities include hot showers, modern restrooms, and an RV dump station. Campsites with electricity cost

$17, while those without are $14. Reservations (with a $7 nonrefundable reservation fee) are recommended from February through May and September through November; call ✆ **800/322-3770** or visit **www.stateparks.utah.gov**.

MORE OUTDOOR FUN IN THE ST. GEORGE AREA

In addition to the outdoor opportunities that Snow Canyon State Park offers, there's great hiking, biking, and fishing in the Dixie National Forest and on nearby lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. For information, contact the Interagency Office (p. 196).

FISHING Quail Creek and Gunlock state parks are the local fishing holes. For equipment, licenses, and tips on where they're biting, visit **Hurst Ace Hardware & Sports Center,** 160 N. 500 West (✆ **435/673-6141;** www.hurststores.com).

GOLFING Utah's golf capital attracts golfers from around the country to eight (and counting!) public courses, known for their challenging designs, well-maintained fairways and greens, and spectacularly scenic settings. Rates given below are for winter; summer rates are usually lower. The area's best course, in our opinion, is the 18-hole, par-72 **Sunbrook Golf Course,** 2366 W. Sunbrook Dr. (✆ **435/634-5866**), tops in both design and magnificent scenery. Greens fees are $19 for 9 holes and $36 for 18 holes, cart included. Also highly rated, and considered by many to be the area's second-best course, is **Green Spring Golf Course,** 588 N. Green Spring Dr., Washington (✆ **435/673-7888;** www.greenspringgolfcourse.com), several miles northeast of St. George. Challenging Green Spring is an 18-hole, par-72 course, with fees of $21 to $24 for 9 holes and $40 to $46 for 18 holes, and lower in the summer; cart rentals cost $6 and $11, respectively.

Other 18-hole courses include the par-73 **St. George Golf Club,** 2190 S. 1400 East (✆ **435/634-5854**), and the par-70 **Southgate Golf Course,** 1975 S. Tonaquint Dr. (✆ **435/628-0000**). Fees at these city-owned courses are $17 for 9 holes and $30 for 18 holes, cart included. The par-72 **Entrada,** 2511 W. Entrada Trail (✆ **435/674-7500**), is an 18-hole course; greens fees, including cart, are $85 to $120, with lower rates in the summertime. Nine-hole courses in St. George include the par-34 **Dixie Red Hills Golf Course,** 1250 N. 645 West (✆ **435/634-5852**), charging $17 for 9 holes.

A marketing cooperative dubbed the **Red Rock Golf Trail** (✆ **888/345-5551;** www.redrockgolftrail.com) offers golfers a number of packages that run $65 to $150 per day for 18 holes and a room in an area hotel, based on double occupancy.

HIKING Some of the best hiking in the area is at Snow Canyon State Park (p. 199) and in the Dixie National Forest to the north, which has some 200 miles of trails. Check with forest rangers for current trail conditions and be sure to carry detailed maps on any long hikes, especially if you're venturing into the Pine Valley Wilderness Area. Stop at the **Interagency Office and Visitor Center** (p. 196) for maps and details.

MOUNTAIN BIKING & ROAD BIKING With hundreds of miles of trails in the St. George area, mountain biking has been rapidly gaining in popularity. For information on the best mountain-biking areas, plus maps, mountain-biking trail guides, bike repairs, bike accessories, and rentals, stop at **Bicycles Unlimited,** 90 S. 100 East (✆ **888/673-4492** or 435/673-4492; www.bicyclesunlimited.com); open Monday through Saturday 8am to 7pm. Top-quality mountain bikes rent for $30 to $50 per day; ask about multi-day rates.

A popular road-biking trip is the scenic **24-mile loop** from St. George through Santa Clara, Ivins, and Snow Canyon State Park. The route follows paved roads with

narrow shoulders but generally little traffic. Allow 2 to 3 hours. Head north out of St. George on Bluff Street (Utah 18) and follow it to its intersection with U.S. 91. Turn west (left) and go about 6 miles to the village of Santa Clara, where you can visit the Jacob Hamblin Home (p. 198). From Santa Clara, continue west about a mile before turning north (right); follow the signs to Ivins and the Tuacahn Amphitheater. At Ivins, turn east (right) onto the Snow Canyon Road, following signs for Snow Canyon State Park, where you can easily spend from several hours to several days exploring the red-rock formations, lava pools, and sand dunes. From the park, continue east to Utah 18, turn south (right), and pedal back into St. George.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

The Dixie State College Rebels are the ones to root for in St. George. The football, women's volleyball, women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, men's baseball, men's golf, and women's softball teams at this community college are often nationally ranked. You're not likely to have any trouble getting tickets to join the 5,000 students in Hansen Stadium or Burns Arena. Tickets cost from $5 to $8 and are available at the Athletic Department offices (✆ **435/652-7525;** www.dixieathletics.com).

WHERE TO STAY

You'll find a good selection of lodgings in St. George. Most are on St. George Boulevard and Bluff Street, within easy walking distance of restaurants and attractions. Summer is the slow season here—people tend to head to the mountains when the temperature hits 115°F (46°C)—so prices are lowest then. High seasons are spring and fall. Golfers should ask about special golf packages.

Reliable chain properties in the area include **Comfort Inn,** 999 E. Skyline Dr. (✆ **877/577-6740** or 435/628-4271); **Days Inn,** 150 N. 1000 East (✆ **800/527-6543** or 435/673-6123); **Hampton Inn,** 53 N. River Rd. (✆ **800/HAMPTON** or 435/652-1200); **Motel 6,** 205 N. 1000 East (✆ **800/466-8356** or 435/628-7979); **Quality Inn,** 1165 S. Bluff St. (✆ **800/231-4488** or 435/628-4481); **Ramada Inn,** 1440 E. St. George Blvd. (✆ **800/713-9435** or 435/628-2828); **Super 8,** 915 S. Bluff St. (✆ **800/800-8000** or 435/688-8383); and **Travelodge,** 175 N. 1000 East (✆ **800/578-7878** or 435/673-4621).

St. George is also home to a pair of renowned spas: **Red Mountain,** 202 Snow Canyon Rd., Ivins, UT 84738 (✆ **800/407-0032** or 435/673-4905; www.redmountain.com), and **Green Valley Spa,** 1871 W. Canyon View Dr., St. George, UT 84770 (✆ **800/237-1068** or 435/628-8060; www.greenvalleyspa.com). Both specialize in fitness locations that run the gamut from pilates and yoga to spinning and rock climbing; rooms that include a fitness package start at over $200 per person per night, but there ore often specials that go south of $100.

Room tax adds just under 10% to your lodging bill. Pets are generally not accepted unless otherwise noted.

MODERATE

Best Western Abbey Inn This lovely property has an elegant lobby and spacious, attractively furnished guest rooms. The pool is set in an attractive courtyard. Ten restaurants are located within a block.

1129 S. Bluff St., St. George, UT 84770. ✆ **888/222-3946** or 435/652-1234. Fax 435/652-5950. www.bwabbeyinn.com. 130 units. $75–$95 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor heated pool; exercise room; large indoor Jacuzzi; game room; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, coffeemaker.

Best Western Coral Hills The well-equipped rooms at the Coral Hills have a king-size bed or one or two queen-size beds, and microwaves. You get a central location, the requisite swimming pool, and, if you're here to work, fax and photocopy services and free high-speed Internet access.

125 E. St. George Blvd., St. George, UT 84770. ✆ **800/542-7733** or 435/673-4844. Fax 435/673-5352. www.coralhills.com. 98 units. $59–$89 double. Rates include full breakfast buffet. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Large indoor and outdoor heated pools, both with jetted tubs; kid's pool; exercise room. *In room:* A/C, TV, high-speed Internet, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Crystal Inn-St. George This handsome, full-service hotel offers comfortable, contemporary rooms for both business travelers and vacationers. Rooms come complete with computer dataport and voice mail, and some have desks. The outdoor heated pool is set in a tropical garden; the restaurant serves three meals daily, and offers complete liquor service, and there is an Internet cafe on-site.

1450 S. Hilton Dr., St. George, UT 84770. ✆ **800/662-2525** in Utah, or 435/628-7477. Fax 435/628-1501. www.crystalinns.com. 98 units. $69–$129 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Small pets accepted for a $25 fee. **Amenities:** Restaurant (American); outdoor heated pool; 4 tennis courts (lit for night play); Jacuzzi; 2 saunas; small business center. *In room:* A/C, cable TV/VCR, dataport, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron.

Green Gate Village Historic Bed & Breakfast One of the most delightful lodgings in St. George, this bed-and-breakfast inn is actually 10 separate buildings—all restored pioneer homes from the late 1800s, sitting in their own flower-filled little "village." Inside, you'll find genuine antiques plus modern "necessities" such as telephones, VCRs, and jetted bathtubs. Outside, you'll see the green gates of the establishment's name. It seems Brigham Young ordered white paint for the St. George Temple in 1877, but got a shipment of green instead. He couldn't send it back, so Young gave the green stuff to locals for their gates and fences. Only one original green gate remains: It's on display in the inn's garden.

76 W. Tabernacle St., St. George, UT 84770. ✆ **800/350-6999** or 435/628-6999. Fax 435/628-6989. www.greengatevillageinn.com. 15 units. $79–$189 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. From I-15 exit 8, head west to Main St., turn left (south) 1 block to Tabernacle St., and turn right (west) to Greene Gate Village. **Amenities:** Restaurant (American); small outdoor heated pool; Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, cable TV/VCR.

Seven Wives Inn Bed & Breakfast ★ There are no polygamists hiding in the attic of Seven Wives Inn anymore—as there were in the 1880s after polygamy was outlawed—but it's fascinating to imagine what things must have been like in those days. Decorated with antiques, mostly Victorian and Eastlake, the inn consists of two historic abodes: the main house, built in 1873, where the polygamists hid; and the President's house next door, a four-square Victorian built 10 years later that played host to many of the LDS Church's early presidents. Each room has a deck or balcony, and private bathroom; most units have VCRs, four have a functioning fireplace, and four have two-person whirlpool tubs—one is installed in a Model T Ford! There's a separate wheelchair-accessible kitchenette cottage furnished with replica pioneer furniture, an extra-large shower, a two-person whirlpool, a king-size bed, and a gas fireplace. Tours are offered by appointment; smoking is not permitted.

217 N. 100 West, St. George, UT 84770. ✆ **800/600-3737** or 435/628-3737. Fax 435/628-5646. www.sevenwivesinn.com. 13 units, including 1 suite. $70–$95 double; $180–$205 suite. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (Regional); outdoor pool; in-room massage. *In room:* A/C, cable TV/VCR, hair dryer.

INEXPENSIVE

Dixie Palms Motel Travelers on tight budgets should head to the Dixie Palms for basic lodging at bargain-basement rates. Located right in the center of town, within

walking distance of several restaurants and attractions, this motel offers guest use of the pool at the Best Western next door, the rooms are clean and well maintained—and the price is right.

185 E. St. George Blvd., St. George, UT 84770. ✆ **435/673-3531.** 15 units. $26–$40 double. MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, microwave.

Rococo Inn Perched on a bluff on the west side of St. George, this white stucco motel affords great views of the city below. The basic motel rooms are clean, simply decorated, and quite attractive; each contains one king-size or two queen-size beds, a small refrigerator, and a combination tub/shower. There is a restaurant with excellent views.

511 S. Airport Rd., St. George, UT 84770. ✆ **888/628-3671** or 435/628-3671. Fax 435/673-6370. 30 units, including 4 suites. $45–$60 double; $65–$110 suite. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (steak/seafood); outdoor pool; indoor Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, cable TV, fridge.

RV PARKS

In addition to the commercial RV grounds discussed below, there are camping facilities at Snow Canyon, Quail Creek, and Gunlock state parks.

Settler's RV Park Situated below a bluff just off I-15, this RV park is convenient to the area's attractions and within walking distance of shops and restaurants; golf courses are just 1½ miles away. The paved sites are fairly well spaced; once the trees grow a bit, they'll be at least partly shaded. In addition to the large, well-kept bathhouse, facilities include a coin-operated laundry, a heated pool and Jacuzzi, a playground, a game room, barbecues, a shuffleboard court, and horseshoes.

1333 E. 100 South, St. George, UT 84770. ✆ **800/628-1624** or 435/628-1624. www.settlersrvpark.com. 155 sites. $28. MC, V. From I-15 exit 8, head east 1 block, turn right onto River Rd., and turn left onto 100 South.

Temple View RV Resort This large RV park is right in town and has an attractive outdoor pool and hot tub, as well as an exercise room, shuffleboard court, and putting/chipping green.

975 S. Main St., St. George, UT 84770. ✆ **800/776-6410** or 435/673-6400. www.templeviewrv.com. 260 sites. $30. AE, DISC, MC, V. Just off I-15 exit 6.

WHERE TO DINE

In addition to the restaurants discussed below, we love the great breakfasts at the **Bear Paw Cafe,** 75 N. Main St. (✆ **435/634-0126**), where the offerings range from steak and eggs to French toast. We also really like the overstuffed burritos and fiery homemade salsa at **Irmita's,** 515 S. Bluff St. (✆ **435/652-0161**).

Basila's MEDITERRANEAN After a long run at another location, Basila's closed in 2000 to the dismay of many of its longtime aficionados, the same people who cheered its reopening in 2003. With its selection of Greek and Italian standards, including gyros, kabobs, fettuccine, hummus, and baked eggplant, the menu goes off the beaten path for Utah's Dixie, and there are also dinner specials like mango curry chicken and homemade lasagna. No alcoholic beverages are served.

1031 E. 700 South. ✆ **435/634-9942.** Main courses $6–$11. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11am–8pm; Fri–Sat 11am–9pm.

The Claim Jumper Steak House *Kids* STEAK/RIBS/SEAFOOD This handsome ranch house–style building houses some of the best red meat in town. All steaks are charbroiled over an open flame. We especially recommend the prime rib (11 or 16 oz.) and the baseball steak—a super-thick center cut sirloin. Other options include Utah trout,

king crab, a full rack of baby back ribs, and the daily pasta special. All dinners come with a huge salad, hot bread, and your choice of potato. Full liquor service is available.

1110 S. Bluff St. ✆ **435/674-7800.** www.claimjumperutah.com. Main courses $12–$30. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Wed 5–9pm; Thurs–Sat 5–10pm.

Painted Pony ★★ STEAK/SEAFOOD From a lively contemporary space overlooking Ancestor Square, Randall Richards' excellent eatery is easily the best restaurant in St. George, and probably the best between Vegas and Salt Lake. Infused with a sensibility that's more California than Utah, Richards' creative menu includes familiar dishes with fresh preparations, with seafood (sesame-crusted line-caught escolar is a melt-in-your-mouth specialty), perfectly grilled steaks (you could slice the tenderloin with a spoon), and an excellent pan-roasted rack of lamb. The room, with a curving bar and a colorful equine motif, nicely complements the menu. Lunch offerings include gourmet sandwiches and salads. Full liquor service is available.

The Tower at Ancestor Square, 2 W. St. George Blvd., #22. ✆ **435/634-1700.** Main courses $8–$10 lunch, $18–$25 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 11:30am–10pm; Sun 4–9pm.

ST. GEORGE AFTER DARK

St. George, with its large nondrinking Mormon population, isn't one of the West's hot spots as far as bar scenes go. Locals going out on the town will often attend a performing arts event, and perhaps stop in for a nightcap at one of the local restaurants that serve alcohol or one of the hotel restaurants. Keep in mind that these are not private clubs, so you'll need to buy something to eat in order to purchase a drink.

Dixie State College's **Avenna Center,** 425 S. 700 East (ticket office ✆ **435/652-7800**), is St. George's primary performing arts venue. The four-building complex hosts a wide range of performances, from country and rock concerts to symphony, ballet, and opera performances—and even sports games.

Dixie State College, 225 S. 700 East (✆ **435/652-7994;** www.dixie.edu), offers a variety of events throughout the school year. The Celebrity Concert Series, running from October through April, has developed a strong following for its programs of music, ballet, modern dance, and performing arts presented by national and international performers. Tickets run from $12 to $18. Recent offerings have ranged from Broadway musicals to a concert pianist to the Utah Symphony Orchestra.

Not to be outdone, the college's music and drama departments offer numerous performances, including student recitals; band, chamber singer, and jazz ensemble concerts; and theater that runs the gamut from musicals to dramas—and maybe even a Greek tragedy. Admission usually costs between $8 and $12 per person; most performances are presented at **Cox Auditorium.** Call the box office (✆ **435/652-7800**) to find out what's scheduled during your visit.

Music lovers will enjoy St. George's own **Southwest Symphonic Chorale and Southwest Symphony,** the only full symphony orchestra between Provo and Las Vegas. Its repertoire includes classical, opera, and popular music. Get tickets early for the annual Christmas production of Handel's *Messiah,* performed with the Dixie State College Concert Choir—it usually sells out. Concerts are scheduled from October to early June; tickets cost $5 to $9 (box office ✆ **435/652-7994;** www.southwestsymphony.org).

Broadway musicals and plays are presented in a September-through-April season by **St. George Musical Theater,** 735 E. Tabernacle (✆ **435/628-8755;** www.sgmt.org). Recent productions have included *Little Shop of Horrors, Forever Plaid,* and *Oliver!;* tickets cost $10 to $15.

The **St. George Tabernacle** (p. 199) presents free concerts (including half-hour organ recitals) on Friday at 12:15pm, and has a program that includes historical lectures with music by college or high school choirs, Wednesdays at 7pm. For information on these and other programs, call ✆ **435/673-5181.**

Every Thursday night, Main Street comes alive with the **Downtown Thursday Nights** festival that includes local food, artisans, and live musical entertainment. Call ✆ **435/862-0076** for information.

Not far from St. George, at 1100 Tuacahn Dr. in Ivins, is the **Tuacahn Amphitheatre and Center for the Arts,** P.O. Box 1996, St. George, UT 84771 (✆ **800/746-9882** or 435/652-3300; www.tuacahn.org). Surrounded by towering red-rock cliffs, this 2,000-seat state-of-the-art outdoor theater presents original and Broadway productions during its Summer Festival of Theatre from June through September, and at other times is the venue for big-name music acts, such as Kenny Rogers. It also hosts the annual Christmas Festival of Lights, during which Christmas lights illuminate the buildings and grounds at Tuacahn. Reservations are recommended. Tickets for the musicals vary, but are generally in the range of $15 to $35 for adults and $15 to $25 for children under 12. Dutch-oven dinners are served before the productions ($11 for adults and $12 for children).

Ice cream is also big in St. George. Downtown, the **Blue Bunny Ice Cream Parlor**, 20 N. Main St. Plaza (✆ **435/674-9393**), is bound to impress a sweet tooth of any age, with 10-foot ice cream cone sculptures, strobe lights, and such delicacies as the chocolatey Mighty Zion sundae and the Key Lime Melt Down. Some die-hards prefer the ice cream at **Nielsen's Frozen Custard** , 445 E. St. George Blvd. (✆ **435/628-5579**), but we can't make up our minds.

3 Cedar Breaks National Monument & Brian Head Resort

Cedar City: 53 miles NE of St. George, 251 miles SW of Salt Lake City; Cedar Breaks National Monument: 21 miles E of Cedar City

This great little area is home to some unheralded—and uncrowded—natural gems. Cedar Breaks National Monument is like a miniature Bryce Canyon—a stunning multicolored amphitheater of stone, with hiking trails, camping, and a plateau ablaze with wildflowers in summer. Brian Head is Utah's southernmost ski resort, but because it has the highest base elevation of any of the state's ski areas, it gets about 450 inches of powder each winter. Where else but southern Utah can you be on the links in the morning and on the slopes by the afternoon? And because Brian Head Resort is off the average skier's beaten track, lift lines are usually nonexistent.

But this area is more than an outdoor playland—with Iron Mission State Park Museum and the nationally renowned Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City happens to be a great place to experience a little history as well as some great theater. Even if neither of these attractions appeals to you, you'll probably end up in Cedar City anyway—it's where you'll find most of the area's accommodations and restaurants.

BASING YOURSELF IN CEDAR CITY

The community of Cedar City (elevation 5,800 ft.) is a good base for those exploring this area, especially because Cedar Breaks National Monument has no lodging or dining facilities. If you're here to ski and you'd like to save money on accommodations, Cedar City also offers an economical alternative to Brian Head's more expensive condos, and it's only 28 miles from Brian Head's slopes (but beware: it can be a mean

28 miles when the weather's bad). In addition to the facilities that we've mentioned below, you'll find a good selection of motels, restaurants, campgrounds, gas stations, grocery stores, and other services on I-15 at exits 57, 59, and 62.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE Cedar City is just off I-15, 53 miles northeast of St. George. **SkyWest Airlines** (✆ **800/453-9417** or 435/586-3033; www.skywest.com) flies into Cedar City Regional Airport; car-rental agencies include **Enterprise,** 987 N. Main St., Suite 1 (✆ **435/865-7636**); **National,** located at the airport (✆ **435/586-4004**); and **Avis,** located at the airport and at 330 W. 200 North (✆ **435/867-9898**).

VISITOR INFORMATION Contact the **Iron County Tourism and Convention Bureau,** 581 N. Main St. (P.O. Box 1007), Cedar City, UT 84720 (✆ **800/354-4849** or 435/586-5124; www.scenicsouthernutah.com). The visitor center is open Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:30pm, and Saturday, 9am to 2pm.

FAST FACTS This area is served by Cedar City's **Valley View Medical Center,** 595 S. 75 East (✆ **435/586-6587**). The **post office** is located at 333 N. Main St. (✆ **800/275-8777** for hours and other information).

WHERE TO STAY & DINE

Lodging possibilities in Cedar City include the **Abbey Inn,** 940 W. 200 North (✆ **800/325-5411** or 435/586-9966); **Best Western El Rey Inn,** 80 S. Main St. (✆ **800/688-6518** or 435/586-6518); **Best Western Town & Country,** 189 N. Main St. (✆ **800/493-0062** or 435/586-9900); **Comfort Inn,** 250 N. 1100 West (✆ **800/627-0374** or 435/586-2082); **Days Inn,** 1204 S. Main St. (✆ **800/329-7466** or 435/867-8877); **Motel 6,** 1620 W. 200 North (✆ **800/466-8356** or 435/586-9200); **Ramada Limited,** 281 S. Main St. (✆ **800/272-6232** or 435/586-9916); **Super 8,** 145 N. 1550 West (✆ **800/800-8000** or 435/586-8880); and **Travelodge,** 2555 N. Main St. (✆ **800/578-7878** or 435/586-7435). All of the above charge less than $100 for doubles in winter; rates are slightly higher in summer. Room tax adds about 9% to lodging bills.

Cedar City KOA Campground, 1121 N. Main St., Cedar City (✆ **800/562-9873** or 435/586-9872; www.koa.com), is open year-round and is $25 to $39 per site.

Sullivan's Cafe, 301 S. Main St. (✆ **435/586-6761**), offers basic American fare for all three meals daily; dinners go for $7 to $16. The local favorite, **Milt's Stage Stop,** 5 miles east of town on Utah 14 (✆ **435/586-9344**), offers steak and seafood for dinner only, from $14 to $42, with complete liquor service.

Those planning trips into the nearby mountains—perhaps for a few days at Cedar Breaks National Monument, described below—can pick up supplies in Cedar City at **Albertson's Food & Drug,** 905 S. Main St. (✆ **435/586-9931;** www.albertsons.com), or **Smith's Food & Drug Center,** 633 S. Main St. (✆ **435/586-1203;** www.smithsfoodanddrug.com). Both have good deli departments and are open round-the-clock.

A BRIEF LOOK AT CEDAR CITY'S PIONEER PAST

Iron Mission State Park Museum Horse-drawn wagons are the main focus at Iron Mission, with several dozen on display. In addition to the usual buckboards; a bullet-scarred Old West stagecoach; and some elaborate, for-the-very-very-rich-only coaches; you'll see an original Studebaker White Top Wagon (predecessor of the present-day station wagon) and several hearses.

Moments Renaissance Delights on the Colorado Plateau: The Utah Shakespearean Festival

Southern Utah may not be a hotbed of cultural activity, but each year humble Cedar City becomes home to Utah's premier theater event, the **Utah Shakespearean Festival** ★★. The Bard's plays have been professionally staged in this unlikely setting since 1962, and the festival has been going strong and getting better ever since, winning the prestigious Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 2000.

The summer season, which runs from mid-June through September, includes six plays—usually three by Shakespeare and three others—in which top actors perform in true Elizabethan style in an open-air replica of the original Globe Theatre, with musicians trained in the music of the Renaissance. (If it rains, productions are moved into the adjacent enclosed theater.) In 2006 you can enjoy Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor, Hamlet,* and *Anthony and Cleopatra;* plus Ernest Thompson's *On Golden Pond; H.M.S. Pinafore,* by Gilbert and Sullivan; and *Room Service,* a very funny 1937 play about a play by Allen Boretz and John Murray. The 2006 fall season, which runs from mid-September through late October, will offer Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice,* J. Hartley Manners's *Peg o' My Heart,* and *The Spitfire Grill,* a tongue-in-cheek Western spoof by Nicholas van Hoogstraten.

Backstage tours ($6–$8) are offered at 10:15am on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday during the summer season and 11am on Thursdays and Saturdays in the fall. A variety of other programs, including free literary and music seminars and special workshops, are also held during the summer season.

The festival is held on the Southern Utah University campus, 351 W. Center St., Cedar City, UT 84720. Ticket prices range from $16 to $46. For tickets and information, call ✆ **800/PLAYTIX** or 435/586-7878. Tickets can also be ordered (using a credit card) on the Web (www.bard.org).

Also on exhibit are American Indian and pioneer artifacts from the region, as well as a diorama depicting the 1850s iron furnace and equipment for which the park is named. Demonstrations of pioneer crafts, such as weaving, spinning, candle making, cooking, and toy making, are held periodically. And there are changing exhibits by local artists. Allow about an hour.

Iron Mission also manages an 1860s-to-1870s iron foundry west of Cedar City. Ask at the desk for information and directions.

635 N. Main St., downtown Cedar City. ✆ **435/586-9290.** www.stateparks.utah.gov. Admission $2, free for children under 6; family rate $6. Memorial Day to Labor Day daily 9am–6pm; rest of year daily 9am–5pm. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT ★

A delightful little park, Cedar Breaks is a wonderful place to spend a few hours or even several days, gazing down from the rim into the spectacular natural amphitheater,

hiking the trails, and camping among the spruce, fir, and wildflowers that blanket the plateau in summer.

This natural coliseum, which reminds us of Bryce Canyon, is more than 2,000 feet deep and over 3 miles across; it's filled with stone spires, arches, and columns shaped by the forces of erosion and painted in ever-changing reds, purples, oranges, and ochers. But why "Cedar Breaks"? Well, the pioneers who came here called such badlands "breaks," and they mistook the juniper trees along the cliff bases for cedars.

ESSENTIALS

At over 10,000 feet elevation, it's always pleasantly cool at Cedar Breaks. It actually gets downright cold at night, so bring a jacket or sweater, even if the temperature is scorching just down the road in St. George. The monument opens for its short summer season only after the snow melts, usually in late May, and closes in mid-October—unless you happen to have a snowmobile or a pair of cross-country skis or snowshoes, in which case you can visit year-round.

GETTING THERE Cedar Breaks National Monument is 21 miles east of Cedar City, 56 miles west of Bryce Canyon National Park, and 247 miles south of Salt Lake City.

From I-15, drive east of Cedar City on Utah 14 to Utah 148, turn north (left), and follow Utah 148 into the monument. If you're coming from Bryce Canyon or other points east, the park is accessible from the town of Panguitch via Utah 143. From the north, take the Parowan exit off I-15 and head south on Utah 143. It's a steep climb from whichever direction you choose, and vehicles prone to vapor lock or loss of power on hills (such as motor homes) may have some problems.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER For advance information, contact the Superintendent, Cedar Breaks National Monument, 2390 West Utah 56, Suite 11, Cedar City, UT 84720-4151 (✆ **435/586-9451;** www.nps.gov/cebr).

A mile from the south entrance gate, you'll find the **visitor center,** open daily from early June to mid-October, with exhibits on the geology, flora, and fauna of Cedar Breaks. You can purchase books and maps here, and rangers can help plan your visit.

FEES & REGULATIONS Admission is $4 per person per week for those 17 and older. Regulations are similar to those at most national parks: Leave everything as you find it. Mountain bikes are not allowed on hiking trails. Dogs, which must be leashed at all times, are prohibited on all trails, in the backcountry, and in public buildings.

HEALTH & SAFETY The high elevation—10,350 feet at the visitor center—is likely to cause shortness of breath and tiredness, and those with heart or respiratory conditions should consult their doctors before going. Avoid overlooks and other high, exposed areas during thunderstorms; they're often targets for lightning.

RANGER PROGRAMS During the monument's short summer season, rangers offer nightly campfire talks at the campground and talks on the area's geology at Point Supreme, a viewpoint near the visitor center, daily on the hour from 10am to 5pm. A complete schedule is posted at the visitor center and the campground.

EXPLORING CEDAR BREAKS BY CAR

The 5-mile road through Cedar Breaks National Monument offers easy access to the monument's scenic overlooks and trail heads. Allow 30 to 45 minutes to make the drive. Start at the visitor center and nearby **Point Supreme** for a panoramic view of the amphitheater. Then drive north, past the campground and picnic ground turnoff,

to **Sunset View** for a closer view of the amphitheater and its colorful canyons. From each of these overlooks, you'll be able to see out across Cedar Valley, over the Antelope and Black Mountains, into the Escalante Desert.

Continue north to **Chessman Ridge Overlook,** so named because the hoodoos directly below look like massive stone chess pieces. Watch for swallows and swifts soaring among the rock formations. Then head north to **Alpine Pond,** a trail head for a self-guided nature trail (see "Hiking," below) with an abundance of wildflowers. Finally, you'll reach **North View,** which offers the best look into the amphitheater. The view here is reminiscent of Bryce Canyon's Queen's Garden, with its stately statues frozen in time.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

HIKING There are no trails from the rim to the bottom of the amphitheater, but the monument does have two high-country trails. The fairly easy 2-mile **Alpine Pond Trail** loop leads through woodlands of bristlecone pines to a picturesque forest glade and pond surrounded by wildflowers, offering panoramic views of the amphitheater along the way. A printed trail guide is available for purchase at the trail head.

A somewhat more challenging hike, the 4-mile round-trip **Spectra Point Trail** (also called the Ramparts Trail) follows the rim more closely than the Alpine Pond Trail, offering changing views of the colorful rock formations. It also takes you through fields of wildflowers and by bristlecone pines that are more than 1,500 years old. You'll need to be especially careful of your footing along the exposed cliff edges, and allow yourself some time to rest—there are lots of ups and downs along the way.

WILDLIFE WATCHING Because of its relative remoteness, Cedar Breaks is a good place for spotting wildlife. You're likely to see mule deer grazing in the meadows along the road early and late in the day. Marmots make their dens near the rim and are often seen along the Spectra Point Trail. You'll spot ground squirrels, red squirrels, and chipmunks everywhere. Pikas, which are related to rabbits, are here too, but it's unlikely you'll see one because they prefer the high, rocky slopes.

In the campground, birders should have no trouble spotting the Clark's nutcracker, with its gray torso and black-and-white wings and tail. The monument is also home to swallows, swifts, blue grouse, and golden eagles.

WINTER FUN The monument's facilities are shut down from mid-October to late May due to the blanket of snow that covers the area. The snow-blocked roads keep cars out, but they're perfect for snowmobilers, snowshoers, and cross-country skiers, who usually come over from nearby Brian Head ski area (p. 211). Snowshoers and cross-country skiers have a variety of options, but snowmobiles are restricted to the main 5-mile road through the monument, which is groomed and marked.

Moments A Late Summer Bonanza: The Wildflowers of Cedar Breaks

During its brief summer season, Cedar Breaks makes the most of the warmth and moisture in the air with a spectacular wildflower show. The rim comes alive in a blaze of color—truly a sight to behold. The dazzling display begins when the snow melts in May and reaches its peak during late July and August.

CAMPING

The 30-site campground, **Point Supreme,** just north of the visitor center, is open from June to mid-September, with sites available on a first-come, first-served basis. It's a beautiful high-mountain setting, among tall spruce and fir. Facilities include restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, grills, and an amphitheater for the ranger's evening campfire programs. No showers or RV hookups are available. Camping fee is $14 per night. Keep in mind that even in midsummer, temperatures can drop into the 30s (single digits Celsius) at night at this elevation, so bring cool-weather gear.

BRIAN HEAD RESORT

Like the ski areas in the Ogden and Logan areas, the reasons to visit Brian Head Resort are terrain and snow; the wide range of amenities you'll find in Park City, Deer Valley, and Snowbird just don't exist here. In summer, mountain bikers and hikers converge on Brian Head.

Brian Head has the distinction of being Utah's southernmost ski resort, just a short drive from the year-round shirt-sleeve warmth of St. George. Its location makes it particularly popular with skiers from the Las Vegas area and Southern California. But with the highest base elevation of any of the state's ski areas (9,600 ft.), it receives over 400 inches of powdery snow each winter. Another plus is the scenery: The only ski resort in Utah's famed red-rock country, Brian Head Resort offers stunning views.

The resort is known for its variety of terrain, especially with snow cat service to the top of Brian Head Peak (elevation 11,307 ft.), offering spectacular advanced terrain for the adventurous. Intermediates will enjoy fine cruising runs a little farther down the mountain, and beginners can ski Navajo Mountain, dedicated solely to children and beginning skiers and snowboarders. Terrain is rated 35% beginner, 40% intermediate, and 25% advanced. Two surface lifts, one double chair, and five triples service 53 trails on 540 skiable acres. The vertical drop is 1,707 feet, from a top elevation of 11,307 feet. There are snow-making capabilities on 170 acres. The ski season generally runs from mid-November to mid-April, with lifts operating daily from 9:30am to 4:30pm. On weekends and holidays, night skiing is available from 3:30 to 9pm.

Snowboarders are welcome, with four terrain parks of varying ability levels, plenty of free riding terrain, and a half pipe, conditions permitting. There's a snow tubing park here as well.

For information, contact **Brian Head Resort,** 329 S. Utah 143, P.O. Box 190008, Brian Head, UT 84719 (✆ **435/677-2035;** fax 435/677-3883; www.brianhead.com), or **Brian Head Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Services,** P.O. Box 190325, Brian Head, UT 84719 (✆ **888/677-2810** or 435/677-2810; fax 435/677-2154; www.brianheadchamber.com).

From Cedar City, it's 28 miles to Brian Head; take I-15 to exit 75 and head south on the very steep Utah 143 about 12 miles.

LIFT TICKETS An adult all-day lift ticket is $39 regular season and $46 during major holiday periods; an all-day child's (ages 6–12) or senior's (ages 65 and over) ticket is $26 regular season and $31 during major holiday periods. Kids 5 and under ski free with a paying adult. Transport on the Peak Express Snowcat costs an additional $5, with purchase of a lift ticket. Night skiing or snowboarding costs $12. Snow tubing is $10 for 2 hours, including tube rental.

LESSONS & PROGRAMS The **ski school** offers private and group lessons, as well as clinics, snowboard classes, and children's ski instruction. Day care is available for

Tips Serious Mountain Biking & Other Summer Fun

After the snow melts, bikers and hikers claim the mountain. With elevations of 9,600 to 11,307 feet, Brian Head is stunningly beautiful and always cool and crisp. For those who want to see the mountains without the sweat, chairlift rides are offered in summer on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday ($8 adults, $4 children 4–12, free for kids under 4). Evenings are busy, too, with live musical entertainment ranging from jazz and country to bluegrass and classical.

Brian Head is fast becoming a major destination for serious—and we do mean serious—mountain bikers. This is a wonderful place for **mountain biking** ★, with endless trails, superb scenery, and about the freshest air you're going to find. What's more, mountain biking here can be oh-so-very easy: a chairlift hauls you and your bike up the mountain ($20 for a full-day pass), or you can take a shuttle to and from several locations ($15)—leaving only the fun parts to pedal. Bike rentals start at $35 per day for adults, $20 for kids 11 and under, and helmets are $5. Contact the **Brian Head Resort Mountain Bike Park** (✆ **435/677-3101**), **Brianhead Sports** (✆ **435/677-2014**), or **Georg's Bike Shop** (✆ **435/677-2013**), all at www.brianheadtown.com, for details.

children and infants; also available are packages combining day care and ski lessons. Call ✆ **435/677-2049** for current rates.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING Brian Head has 26 miles of cross-country trails—6¼ miles of them groomed—rated 50% beginner, 30% intermediate, and 20% advanced. Lessons and rentals are available at **Brianhead Sports** (✆ **435/677-2014**); there's no charge for trail use.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE The Brian Head area offers a variety of lodging possibilities, with winter rates ranging from about $100 to over $400 per night (higher at Christmas; lower in summer). Contact **Brian Head Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Services** (✆ **888/677-2810**), **Brian Head Reservation Center** (✆ **800/845-9781** or 435/677-2042; fax 435/677-2827; www.brianheadtown.com/bhrc), or **Brian Head Central Reservations** (✆ **800/272-7426**). Room tax is about 10%. You can also stay in Cedar City, 28 miles away (see "Basing Yourself in Cedar City," earlier in this chapter).

Cedar Breaks Lodge & Spa ★, 2223 Hunter Ridge Rd. (P.O. Box 190248), Brian Head, UT 84719 (✆ **888/282-3327** or 435/677-3000; www.cedarbreakslodge.com), near the base of Navajo Mountain, recently underwent an extensive multimillion-dollar renovation. It offers 118 studio, parlor, and master "villas" ranging from $100 to $330 in winter, $70 to $210 in summer. All rooms have whirlpool tubs, wet bars, refrigerators, microwaves, coffeemakers, and hair dryers; some also have fireplaces. Facilities include a 24-hour front desk, two restaurants, a lounge, an indoor pool, a fireside Jacuzzi, a fitness center, a sauna, and a steam room. Boasting one of Utah's top spas, the lodge has several massage therapists available, offering Swedish full-body massage, deep tissue massage, sports massage, reflexology, aromatherapy baths, hydrating facials, salt glows, and herbal wraps. In short, they offer a variety of services and luxurious spa treatments. Contact the spa for more information (✆ **435/677-4225**).

Quick breakfasts and lunches are served at several places at Brian Head, including the **Giant Steps and Navajo Lodge grills,** with meals from $5 to $10. The **Double**

Black Diamond Steak House at Cedar Breaks Lodge & Spa (see above) offers fine dining Friday and Saturday nights only, with steaks, prime rib, and several seafood and pasta dishes in the $20-to-$30 range. Reservations are recommended (✆ **435/677-4242**). Also at Cedar Breaks Lodge & Spa, the **Cedar Breaks Café** serves a breakfast buffet plus a la carte menu each morning, and offers casual dinners each evening. Prices range from $7 to $16. The **Cedar Breaks Private Membership Club** (memberships available) is a local gathering place, with a great selection of appetizers and the option of ordering from the Cedar Breaks Café menu.

4 Kanab: Movies, Sand Dunes & Gateway to the Grand Canyon

82 miles E of St. George, 303 miles S of Salt Lake City, 79 miles N of the Grand Canyon

Another southern Utah town founded by Mormon pioneers sent by Brigham Young in the 1870s, Kanab is best known for its starring role in the movies and on TV. This is the Wild West many of us recognize from old TV shows like *Gunsmoke, The Lone Ranger, Death Valley Days,* and *F Troop;* and on the big screen in *Buffalo Bill, Sergeants Three, Bandolero,* and *The Outlaw Josey Wales.*

But Kanab (4,925 ft. elevation) lives on more than just memories of the Old West: It's also a stopping point for travelers on their way to southern Utah's major sights. Visitors coming from Arizona are likely to pass through on their way to Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks. And with the Grand Canyon's north rim directly to the south, Kanab is a good choice for a home base. None of these natural wonders are all that close to Kanab, but in Utah terms, they're "just around the corner."

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE Kanab is 82 miles east of St. George, 80 miles south of Bryce Canyon National Park, 42 miles east of Zion National Park, 68 miles west of Lake Powell and Glen Canyon Recreation Area, 79 miles north of the Grand Canyon, and 303 miles south of Salt Lake City. The town is located on U.S. 89 at the junction of U.S. 89A, which crosses into Arizona just 7 miles south of town.

VISITOR INFORMATION Contact the **Kane County Visitors Center,** 78 S. 100 East (U.S. 89), Kanab, UT 84741 (✆ **800/733-5263** or 435/644-5033; fax 435/644-5923; www.kaneutah.com), which is open April through November Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm and weekends 9am to 5pm, and December through March Monday through Saturday 9am to 5pm and Sunday 9am to 1pm. Another useful website is www.kanabguide.com.

GETTING AROUND Kanab is laid out on a grid, with the heart of town at the intersection of Center and Main streets. U.S. 89 enters from the north on 300 West Street, turns east onto Center Street, south on 100 East Street, and finally east again on 300 South. U.S. 89A follows 100 East Street south to the airport and into Arizona.

FAST FACTS The **Kane County Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility** is at 335 N. Main St. (✆ **435/644-5811**). The **post office** is at 39 S. Main St. (✆ **800/275-8777** for hours and other information). In an **emergency,** call ✆ **911,** or outside of the town limits call the sheriff's office ✆ **435/644-2667.**

CORAL PINK SAND DUNES STATE PARK

Long a favorite of dune-buggy enthusiasts (off-road vehicle users lobbied hard to have this designated a state park), Coral Pink Sand Dunes has recently been attracting an increasing number of campers, hikers, photographers, and all-around nature lovers.

While big boys—and some big girls—play with their expensive motorized toys, others hike; hunt for wildflowers, glow-in-the-dark scorpions, and lizards; or just wiggle their toes in the smooth, cool sand. The colors are especially rich at sunrise and sunset. Early-morning visitors will find the tracks of yesterday's dune buggies gone, replaced by the tracks of lizards, kangaroo rats, snakes, and the rest of the park's animal kingdom, who venture out in the coolness of night, after all the people have departed.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE From downtown Kanab, go about 8 miles north on U.S. 89, then southwest (left) on Hancock Road for about 12 miles to the park.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER For copies of the park brochure and off-highway-vehicle regulations, contact the **park office** at P.O. Box 95, Kanab, UT 84741-0095 (✆ **435/648-2800**). Information is also available online at www.stateparks.utah.gov. At the **park entry station,** there's a small display area with sand from around the world, local fossils, and live scorpions, lizards, and tadpoles.

FEES & REGULATIONS The day-use fee is $5 per vehicle. The standard state park regulations apply, with the addition of a few extra rules due to the park's popularity for off-roading: Quiet hours are from 10pm to 9am, later in the morning than in most parks. Dunes are open to motor vehicles between 9am and 10pm and to hikers at any time. Vehicles going onto the dunes must have safety flags, available at the entry station; while on the dunes, they must stay at least 10 feet from vegetation and at least 100 feet from hikers. Dogs are permitted on the dunes but must be leashed.

RANGER PROGRAMS Sporadically scheduled ranger talks explain the geology, plants, and animals of the dunes. Call to find out if there's anything scheduled during your visit.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

FOUR-WHEELING This giant 1,000-acre sandbox offers plenty of space for **off-road-vehicle enthusiasts,** who race up and down the dunes, stopping to perch on a crest to watch the setting sun. Because the sand here is quite fine, extra-wide flotation tires are needed; lightweight dune buggies are usually the vehicle of choice. Adjacent to the park on Bureau of Land Management property, you'll find hundreds of miles of trails and roads for off-highway vehicles. Unfortunately, no rentals are available.

HIKING The best time for hiking the dunes is early morning. It's cooler then, the lighting at and just after sunrise produces beautiful shadows and colors, and there are no noisy dune buggies until after 9am. Sunset is also very pretty, but you'll be sharing the dunes with off-road vehicles. Keep in mind that hiking through fine sand can be very tiring, especially for those who go barefoot. A self-guided .5-mile loop nature trail has numbered signs through some of the dunes; allow a half-hour.

Several other hikes of various lengths are possible within and just outside the park, but because there are few signs—and because landmarks change with the shifting sands—it's best to check with park rangers before setting out. Those spending more than a few hours in the dunes will discover that even their own tracks disappear in the wind, leaving few clues to the route back to park headquarters.

CAMPING

The spacious and mostly shady 22-site campground, open year-round, offers hot showers, modern restrooms, and an RV dump station, but no hookups. Camping costs $14. Call ✆ **800/322-3770** for reservations, with a $7 nonrefundable fee.

MORE TO SEE & DO IN THE KANAB AREA

Frontier Movie Town Hollywood's vision of the Wild West lives on, with a jail, bunkhouse, bank, ranch house, and numerous other set creations for movies filmed in the Kanab area over the years. You'll see buildings from the sets of Disney's 1973 comedy-drama *One Little Indian,* starring James Garner and Vera Miles; the 1948 classic Western *Black Bart,* with Yvonne De Carlo and Dan Duryea; the 1997 crime-action flick *Truth or Consequences, N.M.,* with Kiefer Sutherland, Vincent Gallo, and Kim Dickens; and Clint Eastwood's 1976 hit *The Outlaw Josey Wales,* among others. At the Hollywood-style costume shop, you can rent Old West costumes ($7) for your own photos, or have yourself shot by the on-site professional photographer.

On the grounds is a large gift/souvenir shop, offering a wide variety of American Indian arts and crafts, cowboy hats, coonskin caps, and the like. Dinner theater programs (dinner and a Western show) are scheduled periodically for groups, but anyone can attend ($18–$25); call to see if there's one planned during your visit. See p. 217 for a review of the C Bar C Ranch House Cafe. Allow about an hour and a half.

297 W. Center St. ✆ **800/551-1714** or 435/644-5337. www.onlinepages.net/frontier_movie_town. Free admission. Summer daily 9am–10pm; rest of year daily 10am–6pm.

Heritage House Although there are 16 historic houses in the downtown area of Kanab, this is the only one open to the public. Built in 1893, this handsome Victorian was purchased by Thomas H. Chamberlain in 1895; and by the city in 1975. The house has been restored to its original appearance, and contains household items from the late 1800s, some belonging to the original owners. Allow about 45 minutes.

At 100 South and Main sts. ✆ **435/644-3506.** Admission by donation. Apr–Sept Mon–Fri afternoons, call for details. A block south of the intersection of Center and Main sts.

Moqui Cave American Indians known as the Moqui are believed to have spent time in this cave 800 to 900 years ago. Times have changed since then, and so has the cave—the Moqui would be amazed by what they'd find here today. The Chamberlain family, descendants of Thomas and Mary Chamberlain (see Heritage House, above), bought the cave in 1951, and the following year opened a tavern and dance hall in it. Although you can't order a drink today, the unique bar is still here, along with a huge collection of objects and artifacts that ranges from authentic dinosaur tracks (more than 140 million years old) to a beautiful fluorescent mineral display. You'll also see American Indian pottery, spear points, and other art and artifacts. A large gift shop specializes in American Indian arts and crafts.

1508 S. Kanab Creek Dr., on the east side of U.S. 89, about 5½ miles north of Kanab. ✆ **435/644-8525.** www.moquicave.com. Admission $4.50 adults, $4 seniors over 60, $3 ages 13–17, $2.50 children 6–12. Memorial Day to Labor Day Mon–Sat 9am–7pm; winter 10am–4pm, but check on possible closures.

Pahreah Townsite & Movie Set Established in 1870, the community of Pahreah takes its name from a Paiute Indian word meaning "muddy water." It was a prosperous farming center until severe flooding washed away much of the farmland. But the town held on—until the last residents gave up and moved away in the 1930s. Today, visitors can see the town cemetery and a few ruins.

The Paria movie set (apparently the spelling of Pahreah was too complicated for Hollywood) has seen its share of film stars over the years. This beautiful painted desert–type section of the valley has been used for films since the 1940s.

41 miles east of Kanab. For a map and to check road conditions, contact the Bureau of Land Management Kanab Visitor Center for Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, 745 E. U.S. 89, Kanab. ✆ **435/644-4680.** Or contact Kane County Visitors Center, 78 S. 100 East, Kanab. ✆ **800/733-5263** or 435/644-5033. Free admission.

WHERE TO STAY

In addition to the properties described below, you might consider the moderately priced **Best Western Red Hills,** 125 W. Center St. (✆ **800/830-2675** or 435/644-2675); the **Holiday Inn Express,** 815 E. U.S. 89 (✆ **800/574-4061** or 435/644-8888), adjacent to the 9-hole Coral Cliffs Golf Course; or the **Super 8 Motel,** 70 S. 200 West (✆ **800/800-8000** or 435/644-5500).

Room tax adds 10.75%. Pets are not accepted unless otherwise noted.

Parry Lodge This is where the stars stayed—Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, John Wayne, Roddy McDowell, James Garner, and Ronald Reagan, to name just a few—while filming in Kanab. In 1931, Chauncey Parry decided to open a motel for the film people who were regularly coming to town. Two chandeliers from Paris hang in the lobby, while photos of movie stars are scattered about the public areas of the colonial-feel lodge. Doors to the original guest rooms, which make up about a third of all rooms, are each adorned with the name of an actor who stayed here. We particularly enjoyed the very dated (in a good way!) Barbara Stanwyck room—small, with one double bed, a 19-inch TV, solid wood furnishings, flower-print wallpaper, and Norman Rockwell prints. The newer rooms, which date from the 1970s, are larger (some have two bedrooms); a few units come with shower only, and one room has a kitchenette.

89 E. Center St. (U.S. 89), Kanab, UT 84741. ✆ **800/748-4104** or 435/644-2601. Fax 435/644-2605. www.parrylodge.com. 89 units, including 3 family units. Summer $68–$73 double, $86 family unit or kitchenette; winter $30–$35 double (family units closed). Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted with $5 fee. **Amenities:** Restaurant (American/breakfast only); heated outdoor pool; Jacuzzi; limited room service; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, kitchenette.

Viola's Garden B&B Comfort, a touch of elegance, and a lot of historic charm make this bed-and-breakfast inn a good choice for those seeking an upscale option. The house, which was a 1912 kit house from the Sears Roebuck catalog, has been carefully restored and enlarged by Nileen and Von Whitlock—Nileen is the granddaughter of the home's original owners, James and Harriet Swapp. Like most historic B&Bs, all the rooms are different. The Rose Garden is decorated with hand-painted fairies, an antique queen-size bed, and full bath with a claw-foot tub and separate shower. The other four rooms have private baths with tiled showers only. All rooms are on the second floor (no elevator). Rooms are decorated with period antiques and reproductions—mostly mahogany and cherrywoods. Room phones and TVs are available by request. Two rooms have private balconies. There is a shared outdoor hot tub and an entertainment room with a big-screen TV. Homemade breakfasts, which might include stuffed French toast or a breakfast casserole, are served in the formal dining room. Special diets can be accommodated with advance notice.

250 N. 100 West, Kanab, UT 84741. ✆ **435/644-5683.** www.violas-garden.com. 4 rooms. Apr–Oct $105 double; Nov–Mar $95 double. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, wireless Internet access, no phone.

CAMPING

Kanab RV Corral Open year-round, this recently remodeled RV park makes a good base camp for exploring the region. The sites—half back-in and half pull-through—are a bit close together, and you do get some highway noise; however, the bathhouses are exceptionally nice (with extra-large shower stalls), the coin-operated laundry is kept spotless, and the small kidney-shaped pool is pleasant. In addition, there's wireless Internet access, a dog run, and horseshoe pits.

483 S. 100 East, U.S. 89A, Kanab, UT 84741. ✆ **435/644-5330.** www.xpressweb.com/~rvcorral. 40 sites. $17–$22. MC, V.

WHERE TO DINE

C Bar C Ranch House Cafe AMERICAN/CAFE This Wild West–style cafe, part of the Frontier Movie Town complex (see "More to See & Do in the Kanab Area," above), offers Buffalo wings, nachos, burgers, hot dogs, fish, chicken, salads, soups, and several cuts of steak. The good selection of beverages—including beer—is very welcome after a hot, dusty trail ride. In fact, this is the only place in town where you can legally order a beer without buying some sort of food.

Frontier Movie Town, 297 W. Center St. ✆ **800/551-1714** or 435/644-5337. Main courses $3–$18. AE, DISC, MC, V. Summer daily noon–10pm; call for hours the rest of the year.

Nedra's Too SOUTHWESTERN/MEXICAN Southwest home-style cooking in a friendly, casual atmosphere is what you'll find at Nedra's. There are tables in the dining room, decorated in Southwestern style, and booths in the adjacent coffee shop. The original Nedra's (✆ **928/643-7591**), which opened in 1957 in Fredonia, Arizona (7 miles south of Kanab), and this second restaurant, opened in 1990, both use the same family recipes now being prepared by the third generation.

The delightful breakfasts, served all day, include the usual ham and eggs, omelets, and pancakes, but there's also an eye-opening chorizo and eggs, which is made with Mexican sausage, and a delicious huevos rancheros. Lunch and dinner menus offer a variety of charbroiled burgers, such as the Philly (with Swiss cheese, grilled red and green peppers, and Bermuda onions), and several sandwiches. Other options include steaks and seafood, fried chicken, and a wide choice of Mexican dishes, from burritos to enchiladas to fajitas. Beer and malt coolers are available with meals.

300 S. 100 East St. ✆ **435/644-2030.** Main courses $3.50–$16; breakfast $3.75–$5.75. AE, DISC, MC, V. Summer daily 7am–11pm; rest of year daily 8am–10pm.

Rocking V Cafe ECLECTIC After 25 years in the television industry, Vicky and Victor Cooper switched gears, bought the old 1892 mercantile in downtown Kanab, and opened this delightfully artsy eatery in 2000. The "slow food" prepared in the Rocking V's kitchen is loaded with fresh ingredients, with an emphasis on great produce—vegan is not a problem here. Dinner entrees like Indonesian curry pasta, red trout crusted with cornmeal and pumpkin seeds, and Italian polenta with tomato alfredo sauce give you an idea of the breadth of influences driving the menu. Everything is made in-house, from the breads to the soups to the mouthwatering desserts. (Our pick: the Key lime pie.) The Coopers' place is a feast for the eyes as well as the taste buds: There's original art hanging on every available wall and in the second-story Rafters Gallery showcasing regional talent.

97 W. Center St. ✆ **435/644-8001.** www.rockingvcafe.com. Main courses $6.75–$9.50 lunch, $11–$26 dinner. MC, V. Daily 11:30am–9pm; shorter fall hours. Closed mid-Dec to Feb.

The Wok Inn HUNAN/SZECHUAN/CHINESE The decor here is Chinese—you'll find Chinese lanterns, parasols, screens, and artwork, plus a Chinese garden and pagoda—mixed with Western steakhouse. The food, however, is strictly Chinese, prepared by Chinese chefs. We particularly enjoyed the moo goo gai pan and Szechuan pork. Several items on the menu are marked hot, and reliable locals informed us they are to be believed! In all, the menu includes some 50 items, including a dozen vegetarian options. Wine and beer are available, but not liquor.

86 S. 200 West. ✆ **435/644-5400.** www.woke-z.com/wokinn.htm. Main courses $4.50–$5 lunch, $6.95–$16 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11:30am–10pm; Sat 1–10pm; Sun 5–10pm. From the intersection of Center and Main sts., head west on Center for 2 blocks and turn left (south) onto 200 West.

11

Zion National Park

Early Mormon settler Isaac Behunin is credited with naming his homestead "Little Zion" because it seemed to be a bit of heaven on earth. Today, 150 years later, **Zion National Park** ★★ will cast a spell over you as you gaze upon its sheer multicolored walls of sandstone, explore its narrow canyons, hunt for hanging gardens of wildflowers, and listen to the roar of the churning, tumbling Virgin River.

It's easy to conjure up a single defining image of the Grand Canyon or the delicately sculpted rock hoodoos of Bryce, but pinning Zion down is more difficult. It's not simply the towering Great White Throne, deep Narrows Canyon, or cascading waterfalls and emerald green pools. You'll discover an entire smorgasbord of experiences, sights, sounds, and even smells here, as you explore from the massive stone sculptures and monuments to the lush forests and rushing rivers. Take time to discover Zion's trails, visiting viewpoints at different times of the day to see the changing light, and let the park work its magic.

Because of its extreme range of elevations (from 3,666 to almost 9,000 ft.) and weather (with temperatures soaring over 100°F/38°C in summer and a landscape carpeted by snow in winter), Zion harbors a vast array of plants and animals. About 800 native species of plants have been found: cactus, yucca, and mesquite in the hot, dry desert areas; ponderosa pines on the high plateaus; and cottonwoods and box elders along the rivers and streams. Of the 14 varieties of cactus that grow in the park, you should especially keep an eye out for the red claret cup, which has spectacular blooms in spring. Wildflowers common to the park include manzanita, with tiny pink blossoms; buttercups; and the bright red hummingbird trumpet. You'll also see the sacred datura—dubbed the "Zion Lily" because of its abundance in the park—with its large funnel-shaped white flowers that open in the cool of night and often close by noon.

While exploring Zion, be sure to watch for "spring lines," which are areas where water seeps out of rock, and for the "hanging gardens" that accompany them. Because sandstone is porous, water can percolate down through the rock until it's stopped by a layer of harder rock. Then the water changes direction, moving horizontally to the rock face, where it seeps out, forming the "spring line" that provides nutrients to whatever seeds the wind delivers, which sprout into "hanging gardens"—plants and flowers you can see clinging to the sides of cliffs.

Speaking of living things, Zion National Park is a veritable zoo, with mammals ranging from pocket gophers to mountain lions, hundreds of birds (including golden eagles), lizards of all shapes and sizes, and a dozen species of snakes (only the Great Basin rattlesnake is poisonous, and it usually slithers away from you faster than you can run from it). Mule deer are common, and although seldom seen, there are also a few shy elk and bighorn sheep, plus foxes, coyote, ringtail cats, beaver, porcupines, skunks,

How Nature Painted Zion's Landscape

Zion National Park is many things to many people: a day hike down a narrow canyon, a rough climb up the face of a massive stone monument, a moment of quiet appreciation as the sun sets with a red glow over majestic peaks. At least to some degree, each of these experiences is possible only because of rocks—their formation, uplifting, shifting, breaking, and eroding. Of Zion's nine rock layers, the most important in creating the park's colorful formations is Navajo sandstone—at up to 2,200 feet, the thickest rock layer in the park. This formation was created some 200 million years ago during the Jurassic period, when North America was hot and dry. Movements in the earth's crust caused a shallow sea to cover windblown sand dunes, and minerals, including lime from the shells of sea creatures, glued sand particles together to form sandstone. Later crust movements caused the land to uplift, draining away the sea but leaving rivers that gradually carved the relatively soft sandstone into the spectacular shapes we see today.

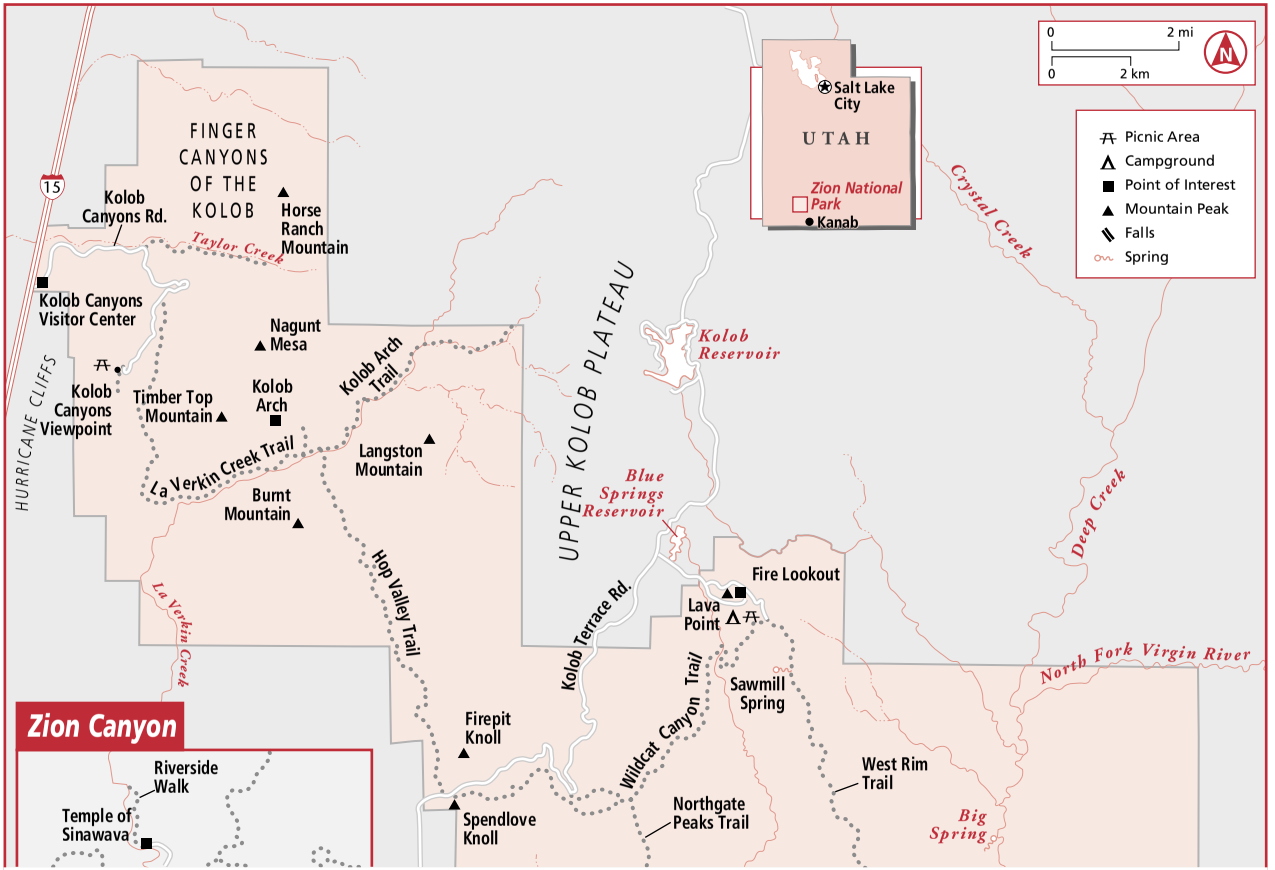
So where do the colors come from? Essentially, from plain old rust. Most of the rocks at Zion are colored by iron or hematite (iron oxide), either contained in the original stone or carried into the rocks by groundwater. Although iron often creates red and pink hues, seen on many of Zion's sandstone faces, it can also result in shades of brown, yellow, black, and even green. Sometimes the iron seeps into the rock, coloring it through, but it can also stain just the surface, often in vertical streaks. Deposits of salt left by evaporating water frequently cause white streaks, and rocks are also colored by bacteria that live on their surfaces. These bacteria ingest dust and expel iron, manganese, and other minerals, which stick to the rock and produce a shiny black, brown, or reddish surface called desert varnish.

and plenty of squirrels and bats. Practically every summer visitor sees lizards of some sort, often the colorful collared and whiptail varieties, and it's easy to hear the song of the canyon wren and the call of the piñon jay.

1 Just the Facts

Located in southwest Utah, at elevations ranging from 3,666 feet to 8,726 feet, Zion National Park has several sections: **Zion Canyon,** the main part of the park, where everyone goes, and the less-visited **Kolob Terrace** and **Kolob Canyons** areas.

GETTING THERE/ACCESS POINTS St. George and Cedar City (see chapter 10) are the closest towns with airport service. From either airport, it's easy to rent a car and drive to Zion. Utah 9 connects with Zion National Park, giving the main section of the park two entry gates—south and east. The drive into Zion Canyon (the main part of the park) from I-15 on the park's western side—following Utah 9 or Utah 17 and Utah 9 to the south entrance at Springdale, is by far the more popular, with two-thirds of park visitors arriving there. Most area lodgings and restaurants are found in Springdale, and the park's two campgrounds and the Zion Canyon Visitor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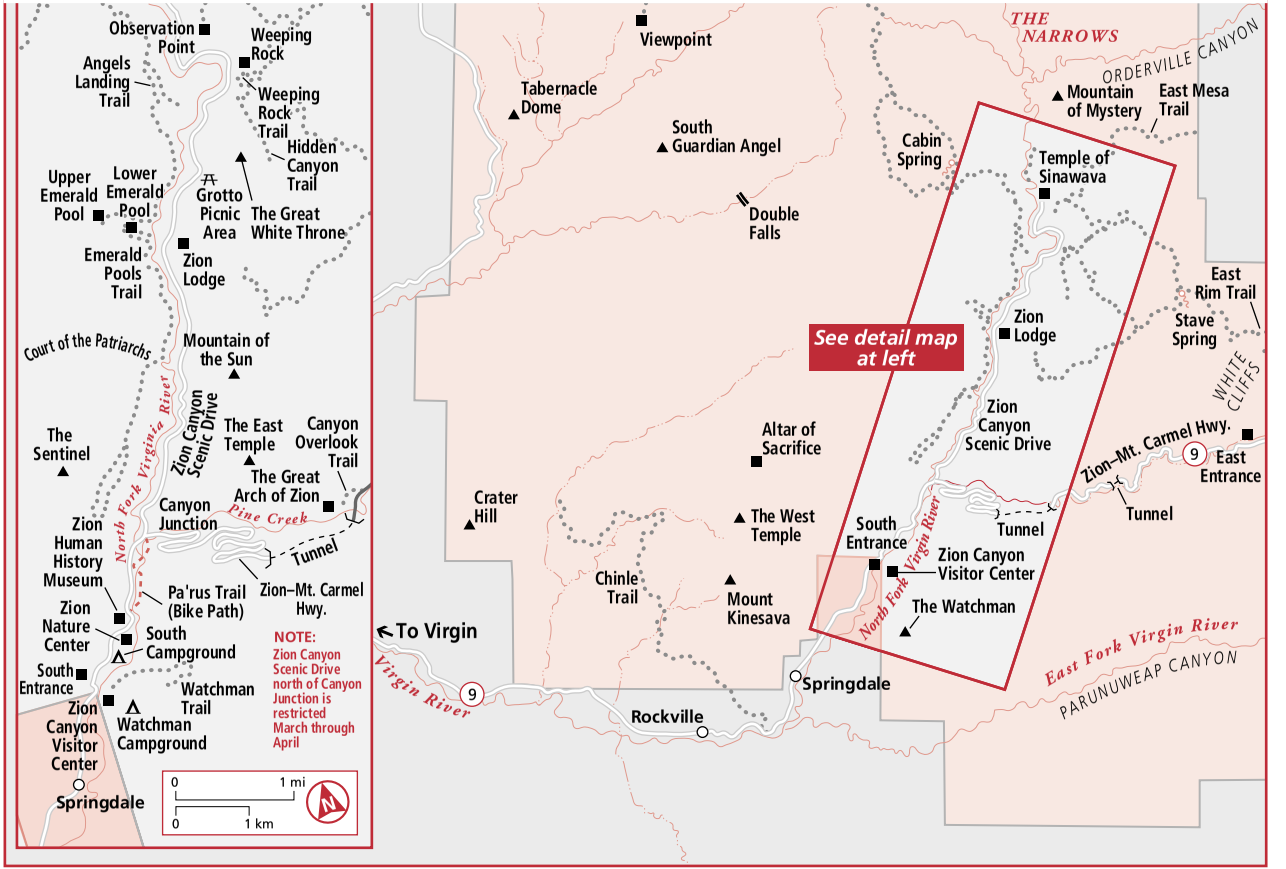
Picnic Area
Campground
Point of Interest
Mountain Peak
Falls
Spring
Salt Lake City
UTAH
Zion National Park
Kanab
Crystal Creek
FINGER CANYONS OF THE KOLOB
15
Kolob Canyons Rd.
Taylor Creek
Horse Ranch Mountain
Kolob Canyons Visitor Center
Nagunt Mesa
Kolob Canyons Viewpoint
Timber Top Mountain
Kolob Arch
Kolob Arch Trail
HURRICANE CLIFFS
La Verkin Creek Trail
Langston Mountain
Burnt Mountain
UPPER KOLOB PLATEAU
Kolob Reservoir
Blue Springs Reservoir
Deep Creek
Fire Lookout
Lava Point
Kolob Terrace Rd.
Hop Valley Trail
La Verkin Creek
Wildcat Canyon Trail
Sawmill Spring
North Fork Virgin River
Zion Canyon
Riverside Walk
Temple of Sinawava
Firepit Knoll
Spendlove Knoll
Northgate Peaks Trail
West Rim Trail
Big Spring


Observation Point
Weeping Rock
Angels Landing Trail
Weeping Rock Trail
Hidden Canyon Trail
Upper Emerald Pool
Lower Emerald Pool
Grotto Picnic Area
The Great White Throne
Emerald Pools Trail
Zion Lodge
Court of the Patriarchs
Mountain of the Sun
The Sentinel
Zion Canyon Scenic Drive
The East Temple
Canyon Overlook Trail
The Great Arch of Zion
Canyon Junction
Pine Creek
Tunnel
Zion Human History Museum
North Fork Virgin River
Pa'rus Trail (Bike Path)
Zion–Mt. Carmel Hwy.
Zion Nature Center
South Campground
South Entrance
Watchman Trail
Zion Canyon Visitor Center
Watchman Campground
Springdale
NOTE: Zion Canyon Scenic Drive north of Canyon Junction is restricted March through April
0 1 mi
0 1 km
Viewpoint
Tabernacle Dome
South Guardian Angel
Double Falls
THE NARROWS
ORDERVILLE CANYON
Mountain of Mystery
East Mesa Trail
Cabin Spring
Temple of Sinawava
East Rim Trail
Stave Spring
WHITE CLIFFS
See detail map at left
Zion Lodge
Zion Canyon Scenic Drive
Zion–Mt. Carmel Hwy.
East Entrance
Tunnel
Altar of Sacrifice
Crater Hill
The West Temple
South Entrance
Zion Canyon Visitor Center
Chinle Trail
Mount Kinesava
The Watchman
North Fork Virgin River
East Fork Virgin River
PARUNUWEAP CANYON
To Virgin
Virgin River
Springdale
Rockville

Center are located just inside the south entrance. This approach has the added advantage of avoiding possible delays at the Zion–Mt. Carmel Tunnel. However, this approach is much less scenic than the eastern approach.

From the east, it's a spectacularly scenic 24-mile drive from Mt. Carmel on Utah 9, reached from either the north or south via U.S. 89. However, be aware that this route into the park drops over 2,500 feet in elevation, passes through the mile-long Zion–Mt. Carmel Tunnel, and winds down six steep switchbacks. The tunnel is too small for two-way traffic that includes vehicles larger than standard passenger cars and pickup trucks. Buses, trucks, and most recreational vehicles must be driven down the center of the tunnel, and therefore, all oncoming traffic must be stopped. This applies to all vehicles over 7 feet 10 inches wide (including mirrors) or 11 feet 4 inches tall (including luggage racks, and so on). From March through October, large vehicles are permitted in the tunnel only from 8am to 8pm daily; during other months, arrangements can be made at park entrances or by calling park headquarters (✆ **435/772-3256**). Affected vehicles must pay a $15 fee, good for two trips through the tunnel during a 7-day period. All vehicles over 13 feet 1 inch tall and certain other particularly large vehicles are prohibited from driving anywhere on the park road between the east entrance and Zion Canyon.

You'll find Kolob Terrace Road, with additional viewpoints and trail heads, heading north off Utah 9 from the village of Virgin, about 15 miles west of the park's southern entrance. This road is closed in the winter.

The Kolob Canyons section, in the park's northwest corner, can be reached via the short Kolob Canyons Road off I-15 exit 40.

Some helpful distances: The park is 83 miles southwest of Bryce Canyon National Park; 120 miles northwest of the north rim of Grand Canyon National Park, in northern Arizona; 309 miles south of Salt Lake City; and 158 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTERS Contact Zion National Park, Utah 9, Springdale, UT 84767-1099 (✆ **435/772-3256;** www.nps.gov/zion). You can also purchase books, maps, and videos related to the park from the nonprofit **Zion Natural History Association,** Zion National Park, Springdale, UT 84767 (✆ **800/635-3959** or 435/772-3264; www.zionpark.org). Some publications are available in foreign languages, and videos are available in DVD, VHS, or PAL formats. Those wanting to help the nonprofit association can join ($35 single or $50 family annually) and get a 20% discount on purchases, a 20% discount on most Zion Canyon Field Institute classes, and discounts at most other nonprofit bookstores at national parks, monuments, and historic sites.

The park has two visitor centers. The **Zion Canyon Visitor Center** (✆ **435/772-3256**), near the south entrance, has outdoor exhibits on the many resources available in the park and provides information on the shuttle operation. You can ask rangers questions, get backcountry permits, pick up free brochures, and purchase books, maps, videos, postcards, and posters. The smaller **Kolob Canyons Visitor Center** (✆ **435/586-9548**), in the northwest corner of the park off I-15, provides information, permits, books, and maps. Both visitor centers are open from 8am to 5pm in summer, with shorter varying hours the rest of the year.

The *Zion Map & Guide,* a free newspaper-format guide available at both visitor centers, is packed with extremely helpful information about the park.

The new **Zion Human History Museum,** located about 1 mile inside the south entrance, offers museum exhibits, park information, and an orientation program, plus a bookstore.

FEES, BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS & REGULATIONS Entry into the park (for up to 7 days), including unlimited use of the shuttle bus, costs $20 per private vehicle, or $10 per individual on foot, bicycle, or motorcycle. Oversize vehicles are charged $15 for use of the Zion–Mt. Carmel Tunnel on the east side of the park (see "Getting There/Access Points," above).

Backcountry permits, available at either visitor center, are required for all overnight hikes in the park as well as for any slot canyon hikes. Permits cost $10 for 1 or 2 persons, $15 for 3 to 6, and $20 for 7 to 12 people. Camping costs $16 per night for basic campsites and $18 to $20 per night for sites with electric hookups (located in Watchman Campground).

Bicycles are prohibited in the Zion–Mt. Carmel Tunnel, in the backcountry, and on all trails except the Pa'rus Trail. Feeding or otherwise disturbing wildlife is forbidden, as is vandalizing or upsetting any natural feature of the park. Pets, which must be leashed at all times, are prohibited on all trails, in the backcountry, and in public buildings.

SEASONS/AVOIDING THE CROWDS The park is open year-round (though visitor centers are closed Christmas Day), 24 hours a day, although weather conditions may limit some activities at certain times. For instance, you'll want to avoid long hikes in midsummer, when the park bakes under temperatures that can exceed an unbearable 110°F (43°C), or during and immediately after winter storms, when ice and snow at higher elevations can make trails dangerous.

If possible, try to avoid the peak months of June, July, and August, when Zion receives almost half of its annual visitors. The quietest months are December, January, and February, but of course it's cold then, and you may have to contend with some snow and ice. A good compromise is to visit in spring or fall, when the weather is usually good and the park is less crowded.

The best way to avoid crowds is to simply walk away from them, either taking the longer and more strenuous hiking trails or hiking into the backcountry. It's sad but true—most visitors never bother to venture far from the road, and their loss can be your gain. If you're willing to expend a little energy, you can enjoy a wonderful solitary experience. You can also avoid hordes of tourists by spending time in spectacular Kolob Canyons, in the far northwest section of the park; it receives surprisingly little use, at least compared to Zion Canyon.

RANGER PROGRAMS Rangers present a variety of free programs and activities. Evening programs, which sometimes include a slide show, take place most summer nights at campground amphitheaters and Zion Lodge. Topics vary, but could include the animals or plants of the park, geology of the park, humanity's role in the park, or perhaps some unique feature such as Zion's slot canyons. Rangers also give short talks on similar subjects several times daily at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center and at other locations. Ranger-guided hikes and walks, some of which require reservations, might take you to little-visited areas of the park, on a trek to see wildflowers, or out at night for a hike under a full moon. Schedules of the various activities are posted on bulletin boards at the visitor centers, campgrounds, and other locations.

Children ages 6 to 12 can join the **Junior Rangers/Explorers** in order to participate in a variety of programs, and earn certificates, badges, and patches. Morning and

afternoon sessions, each lasting 2½ hours, are scheduled daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with kids meeting at the Nature Center in the South Campground. There's a one-time fee of $2 per child, and the age range is strictly enforced.

2 Seeing the Highlights

The best way to see Zion is to spend a week here, starting by exploring the visitor center displays and programs, and then riding the shuttle bus to the various viewpoints (or driving in the off season). Gradually work up from short hikes and walks to full-day and overnight treks into the backcountry. That's the ideal, but for most visitors, time and finances dictate a shorter visit.

If you have only a day or two at the park, we recommend first heading to the **Zion Canyon Visitor Center** for the orientation video and exhibits, and then talking with a ranger about the amount of time you have, your abilities, and interests. A brief visit to the **Zion Human History Museum** (about 1 mile inside the south entrance) will give you a little more insight into humanity's role—historically and currently—in Zion. Because Zion offers such a variety of landscapes and activities, you can easily create your own itinerary. If your goal is to see as much of the park as possible in 1 full day, we suggest the following:

After a quick stop at the visitor center, hop on the free **shuttle bus,** which takes you to the major roadside viewpoints. You'll be able to get off, look at the formations, take a short walk if you like, and then catch the next shuttle for a ride to the next stop.

We particularly recommend getting off the shuttle at the **Temple of Sinawava** and taking the easy 2-mile round-trip **Riverside Walk,** which follows the Virgin River through a narrow canyon past hanging gardens. Then take the shuttle back to the lodge (total time: 2–4 hr.). At the lodge, stop by the gift shop and perhaps have lunch in the excellent restaurant.

Near the lodge, you'll find the trail head for the **Emerald Pools.** Especially pleasant on hot days, this easy walk through a forest of oak, maple, fir, and cottonwood trees leads to a waterfall, hanging garden, and the shimmering lower pool. This part of the walk should take about an hour round-trip, but those with a bit more time may want to add another hour and another mile to the loop by taking the moderately strenuous hike on a rocky, steeper trail to the upper pool. If you still have time and energy, head back to the south park entrance and stop at **Watchman** (east of Watchman Campground), for the 2-mile, 2-hour round-trip, moderately strenuous hike to a plateau with beautiful views of several rock formations and the town of Springdale. In the evening, try to take in a campground amphitheater program.

3 Exploring Zion by Shuttle or Car

If you enter Zion from the east, along the steep **Zion–Mt. Carmel Highway,** you'll travel 13 miles through the park to the **Zion Canyon Visitor Center,** passing **Checkerboard Mesa,** a massive sandstone rock formation covered with horizontal and vertical lines that make it look like a huge fishing net. Continuing on, you'll view a fairyland of fantastically shaped rocks of red, orange, tan, and white, as well as the **Great Arch of Zion,** carved high in a stone cliff.

A shuttle-bus system has been implemented in the main section of the park to reduce traffic congestion and the resultant problems of pollution, noise, and damage to park resources. The shuttle system consists of two loops: one in the town of Springdale and the other along Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, with the loops connecting at the

Impressions

Nothing can exceed the wondrous beauty of Zion . . . in the nobility and beauty of the sculptures there is no comparison.

—Geologist Clarence Dutton, 1880

visitor center. From April through October, access to Zion Canyon Scenic Drive (above Utah 9) is limited to shuttle buses, hikers, and bikers. The only exception is overnight Zion Lodge guests and tour buses connected with the lodge, which have access as far as the lodge. Shuttles run frequently—about every 6 minutes at peak times—and have room for packs, coolers, strollers, and two bicycles. In winter, when the fewest number of visitors are here, you are permitted to drive the full length of Zion Canyon Scenic Drive in your own vehicle.

Those driving into the park at the northwest corner will find a short scenic drive open year-round. The **Kolob Canyons Road** (about 45 min. from Zion Canyon Visitor Center at I-15 exit 40) runs 5 miles among spectacular red and orange rocks, ending at a high vista. Allow about 45 minutes round-trip, and be sure to get a copy of the *Kolob Canyons Road Guide* at the Kolob Visitor Center. Here's what you'll pass along the way:

Leaving **Kolob Canyons Visitor Center,** drive along the Hurricane Fault to **Hurricane Cliffs,** a series of tall, gray cliffs composed of limestone, and onward to **Taylor Creek,** where a piñon-juniper forest clings to life on the rocky hillside, providing a home to the bright blue scrub jay. Your next stop is **Horse Ranch Mountain,** which, at 8,726 feet, is the national park's highest point. Passing a series of colorful rock layers, where you might be lucky enough to spot a golden eagle, your next stop is **Box Canyon,** along the south fork of Taylor Creek, with sheer rock walls soaring over 1,500 feet high. Next you'll see a multicolored layer of rock, pushed upward by tremendous forces from within the earth.

Continue until you reach a canyon, which exposes a rock wall that likely began as a sand dune before being covered by an early sea and cemented into stone. Next stop is a side canyon, with large, arched alcoves boasting delicate curved ceilings. Head on to a view of **Timber Top Mountain,** which has a sagebrush-blanketed desert at its base, but is covered with stately fir and ponderosa pine at its peak. Watch for mule deer on the brushy hillsides, especially between October and March, when they might be spotted just after sunrise or before sunset.

From here, continue to **Rockfall Overlook;** a large scar on the mountainside marks the spot where a 1,000-foot chunk of stone crashed to the earth in July 1983, the victim of erosion. And finally, stop to see the canyon walls themselves, colored orange-red by iron oxide and striped black by mineral-laden water running down the cliff faces.

4 Outdoor Pursuits

Guided hiking, rock climbing, and biking trips in the area outside the park plus shuttle services are offered by several local companies, including **Zion Adventure Company,** 36 Lion Blvd. (P.O. Box 523), Springdale, UT 84767 (✆ **435/772-0990;** www.zionadventures.com), and **Zion Rock & Mountain Guides,** 1458 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 623), Springdale, UT 84767 (✆ **435/772-3303;** www.zionrockguides.com). In the same building as Zion Rock & Mountain Guides, **Springdale Cycle,**

1458 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 501), Springdale, UT 84767 (✆ **800/776-2099** or 435/772-0575; www.springdalecycles.com), does all things bike-related. Shuttle service for backcountry hikers and bikers is also available throughout the area from the park's shuttle service, **Zion Canyon Transportation** (✆ **877/635-5993** or 435/635-5993; www.nps.gov/zion/trans.htm). Those who want to try to arrange rides with fellow hikers can make use of a bulletin board at the visitor center.

BIKING & MOUNTAIN BIKING

Although bikes are prohibited on all trails and forbidden to travel cross-country within the national park boundaries, two developments have helped Zion become one of America's few bike-friendly national parks.

The **Pa'rus Trail,** open since late 1994, runs 2 miles along the Virgin River from the South Campground entrance to Zion Canyon Scenic Drive near its intersection with the Zion–Mt. Carmel Highway. Along the way, the trail crosses the North Fork of the Virgin River and several creeks, and provides good views of Watchman, West Temple, the Sentinel, and other lower canyon formations. The paved trail is open to bicyclists, pedestrians, and those with strollers or wheelchairs, but is closed to motor vehicles.

Bikes are permitted on the park's established roads at any time, except in the Zion–Mt. Carmel tunnel, where they are always prohibited. From April through October, **Zion Canyon Scenic Drive** north of the Zion–Mt. Carmel Highway is open only to shuttle buses, bicyclists, and hikers, plus tour buses and motorists going to Zion Lodge. The rest of the year, the road is open to private motor vehicles, and the shuttle buses don't run. Bicyclists should stay to the right to allow shuttle buses to pass.

On Bureau of Land Management and state-owned property just outside the park, mountain bikers will find numerous rugged jeep trails that are great for mountain biking, plus more than 70 miles of slickrock cross-country trails and single-track trails. **Gooseberry Mesa,** above the community of Springdale, is generally considered the best mountain-biking destination in the area, but you'll also find good trails on nearby Wire and Grafton mesas.

Talk with the knowledgeable staff at **Springdale Cycle** (p. 225) about the best trails for your interests and abilities. This full-service bike shop offers maps, a full range of bikes and accessories, repairs, and rentals ($35–$45 for a full day, $25–$35 for a half-day). The company also offers full-day guided mountain-bike trips outside the park, $145 per person for two people and lower per person rates for larger groups, plus a variety of multi-day excursions.

HIKING

Zion offers a wide variety of hiking trails, ranging from easy half-hour walks on paved paths to grueling overnight hikes over rocky terrain. Hikers with a fear of heights should be especially careful when choosing trails; many include steep, dizzying drop-offs. What follows are our top hiking suggestions.

The **Weeping Rock Trail,** among the park's shortest trails, is a .5-mile round-trip walk from the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive to a rock alcove with a spring and hanging gardens of ferns and wildflowers. Although paved, the trail is steep and not suitable for wheelchairs.

Another short hike is the **Lower Emerald Pools Trail** ★★, which is an easy 1-hour walk. If you want to extend your trip to a moderately strenuous 2-hour hike you can continue along the loop. A .6-mile paved path from the Emerald Pools parking area through a forest of oak, maple, fir, and cottonwood leads to a waterfall, a hanging

garden, and the Lower Emerald Pool, and is suitable for those in wheelchairs, with assistance. From here, a steeper, rocky trail (not appropriate for wheelchairs) continues past cactus, yucca, and juniper another .5 mile to Upper Emerald Pool, with another waterfall. A third pool, just above Lower Emerald Pool, offers impressive reflections of the cliffs. The pools are named for the green color of the water, which is caused by algae.

A particularly scenic hike is the **Hidden Canyon Trail,** a 2-mile moderately strenuous hike that takes about 3 hours. Starting at the Weeping Rock parking area, the trail climbs 800 feet through a narrow water-carved canyon, ending at the canyon's mouth. Those wanting to extend the hike can go another .6 mile to a small natural arch. Hidden Canyon Trail includes long drop-offs and is not recommended to anyone with a fear of heights.

Another moderately strenuous but relatively short hike is the **Watchman Trail,** which starts near the transit/visitor center. This 3-mile round-trip hike gets surprisingly little use, possibly because it can be very hot in midday. Climbing to a plateau near the base of the formation called the Watchman, it offers splendid views of lower Zion Canyon, the Towers of the Virgin, and West Temple formations.

For a strenuous 4-hour, 5-mile hike—one that's definitely not for anyone with even a mild fear of heights—take the **Angel's Landing Trail** to a summit that offers spectacular views into Zion Canyon. But be prepared: The final .5 mile follows a narrow, knife-edge trail along a steep ridge, where footing can be slippery even under the best of circumstances. Support chains have been set along parts of the trail.

Hiking **the Narrows** ★★ is actually not really hiking a trail at all, but involves walking or wading along the bottom of the Virgin River, through a spectacular 1,000-foot-deep chasm that, at a mere 20 feet wide, definitely lives up to its name. Passing fancifully sculptured sandstone arches, hanging gardens, and waterfalls, this moderately strenuous 16-mile one-way hike can be completed in less than a day or in several days, depending on how quickly you want to go. The Narrows are subject to flash flooding and can be very treacherous. Park service officials remind hikers that they are responsible for their own safety and should check on current water conditions and weather forecasts. This hike is *not* recommended when rain is forecast. Permits are required for full-day and overnight hikes (check with rangers for details), but are not needed for easy, short day hikes, which you can access from just beyond the end of the **Riverside Walk,** a 2-mile trail that starts at the Temple of Sinawava parking area.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Guided rides in the park are available March through October from **Canyon Trail Rides,** P.O. Box 128, Tropic, UT 84776 (✆ **435/679-8665;** www.canyonrides.com), with ticket sales and information near Zion Lodge. A 1-hour ride along the Virgin River costs $30 and a half-day ride on the Sand Beach Trail costs $55. Riders must weigh no more than 220 pounds, and children must be at least 7 years old for the 1-hour ride and 10 years old for the half-day ride. Reservations are advised.

ROCK CLIMBING

Technical rock climbers like the sandstone cliffs in Zion Canyon, although rangers warn that much of the rock is loose, or "rotten," and climbing equipment and techniques suitable for granite are often less effective on sandstone. Permits ($5) are required for overnight climbs, and because some routes may be closed at times, climbers should check at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center before setting out.

WILDLIFE VIEWING & BIRD-WATCHING

It's a rare visitor to Zion who doesn't spot a critter of some sort, from mule deer—often seen along roadways and in campgrounds—to the numerous varieties of lizards, including the park's largest, the chuckwalla, which can grow to 20 inches. The ringtail cat, a relative of the raccoon, prowls Zion Canyon at night and is not above helping itself to your camping supplies. Along the Virgin River, you'll see bank beaver, so named because they live in burrows dug into riverbanks instead of building dams. The park is also home to several types of squirrels, gophers, and pack rats.

If you're interested in spotting birds, you're in luck here. The rare peregrine falcon, among the world's fastest birds, sometimes nests in the Weeping Rock area, where you're also likely to see the dipper, winter wren, and white-throated swift. Also in the park are golden eagles, several species of hummingbirds, ravens, piñon jays, and possibly a roadrunner or two.

Snakes include the poisonous Great Basin rattler, found below 8,000 feet elevation, as well as nonpoisonous kingsnakes and gopher snakes. Tarantulas—those large, hairy, usually slow-moving spiders—are often seen in the late summer and fall. Contrary to popular belief, the tarantula's bite is not deadly, although it may be somewhat painful.

Remember, it's illegal to feed the wildlife. No matter how much you may want to befriend an animal by offering food, please remember that it's not healthy for the wildlife to eat human food or to get accustomed to being fed this way.

5 Camping

The absolute best places to camp are at one of the **national park campgrounds** ★★★ just inside the park's south entrance. Both of Zion's main campgrounds have paved roads, well-spaced sites, and lots of trees. Facilities include restrooms with flush toilets but no showers, a dump station, a public telephone, and sites for those with disabilities. The fee is $16 per night for basic sites, or $18 to $20 per night for sites with electric hookups.

South Campground has 126 sites (no hookups) and is usually open from mid-March through October only. Reservations are not accepted and the campground often fills by noon in summer. Some campers stay at nearby commercial campgrounds their first night in the area, then hurry into the park the next morning, circling like vultures until a site becomes available.

Watchman Campground (✆ **800/365-2267** or http://reservations.nps.gov for reservations) has 168 sites, with electric hookups on two loops, and is open year-round (reservations available spring through early fall only).

Lava Point, with only six sites, is located on the Kolob Terrace. It has fire grates, tables, and toilets, but no water, and there's no fee. Vehicles are limited to 19 feet, and it's usually open from June through mid-October.

If you can't get a site in the park, or if you prefer hot showers or complete RV hookups, there are several campgrounds in the surrounding area. The closest, **Zion Canyon Campground,** 429 Zion Park Blvd., a half-mile south of the park entrance (✆ **435/772-3237;** www.zioncamp.com), is open year-round and offers 220 sites, many of which are shaded. Although it gets quite crowded in summer, the campground is clean and well maintained; in addition to the usual showers and RV hookups, you'll find a self-service laundry, dump station, convenience store, and restaurant. Tenters are welcome; rates range from $20 to $30 for two people.

6 Where to Stay

The only lodging actually in Zion National Park is Zion Lodge. The other properties listed here are all in Springdale, a village at Zion's south entrance that has become the park's bedroom. Pets are not accepted unless otherwise noted. Room tax adds 9% in the park and 11.5% outside the park. For additional information about lodging, dining, and other services in the area contact the **Zion Canyon Visitors Bureau,** P.O. Box 331, Springdale, UT 84767-0331 (✆ **888/518-7070;** www.zionpark.com).

IN THE PARK

Zion Lodge ★★★ The recently refurbished motel units and cabins are nice enough, but then again, you don't come to Zion to stay indoors—you come for the scenery, and there are pretty incredible views of the majesty and glory that is Zion from the lobby's large picture windows and from the motel rooms, cabins, and suites. Each charming cabin has a private porch, stone (gas-burning) fireplace, two double beds, pine-board walls, and log beams. The comfortable motel rooms have two queen-size beds, a private porch or balcony, and all the usual amenities except TVs. Suites have one king-size bed, a separate sitting room, and a wet bar. Ranger programs are offered in the lodge auditorium; the gift shop sells everything from postcards to expensive silver and turquoise American Indian jewelry. The lodge fills quickly during the summer, so make reservations as far in advance as possible.

Zion National Park, UT 84767. ✆ **435/772-7700.** Information and reservations: Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Central Reservations, 6312 S. Fiddlers Green Circle, Suite 600N, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. ✆ **888/297-2757** or 303/297-2757. Fax 303/297-3175. www.zionlodge.com. 121 units. Mid-Mar to Nov motel rooms $132 double; cabins $142 double; suites $148 double. Rates are $10 higher on Fri and Sat nights. Discounts and packages available in winter. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see the Red Rock Grill, p. 231). *In room:* A/C.

NEARBY

Canyon Ranch Motel Consisting of a series of two- and four-unit cottages set back from the highway, this motel has the look of an old-fashioned auto camp on the outside but provides modern motel rooms on the interior—either new or newly remodeled. Some units have showers only, while others have tub/shower combos. Room no. 13, with two queen-size beds, offers spectacular views of the Zion National Park rock formations through its several large picture windows; views from most other rooms are almost as good. There's a nice lawn area with trees and picnic tables.

668 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 175), Springdale, UT 84767. ✆ **866/946-6276** or 435/772-3357. www.canyonranchmotel.com. 21 units. Apr–Oct $64–$92 double; Nov–Mar $48–$74 double; kitchenettes $10 more year-round. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted ($10 per pet). **Amenities:** Outdoor pool; hot tub. *In room:* A/C, TV, kitchenettes in some units, wireless Internet.

Cliffrose Lodge & Gardens ★ With delightful river frontage and 5 acres of lawns, shade trees, and flower gardens, the Cliffrose offers a beautiful setting just outside Zion National Park. The architecture is Southwestern, with redwood balconies, and the outdoor rock waterfall whirlpool tub is a delight, especially in the evening. Modern, well-kept rooms have all the standard motel appointments, with unusually large bathrooms with tub/shower combinations. We especially like the four luxurious Canyon View Suites, which sleep up to six guests each. On the lawns, you'll find comfortable seating, including a lawn swing.

281 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 510), Springdale, UT 84767. ✆ **800/243-8824** or 435/772-3234. Fax 435/772-3900. www.cliffroselodge.com. 40 units. Apr–Oct and holidays $119–$179 per unit. Rates lower at other times. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Large outdoor heated pool; whirlpool; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV/VCR.

El Rio Lodge in Zion Canyon ★ *Finds* A good choice for travelers on a budget, the El Rio is a pleasant mom-and-pop operation with one suite, five rooms upstairs, and five downstairs. The motel was built in the early 1960s, and although small, the standard rooms are clean and comfortable, with light-colored walls, simple but attractive decor, and full bathrooms with tub/shower combos. The upstairs rooms have two double beds, with an outdoor walkway and porch affording terrific views of Zion Canyon. Downstairs rooms each have one queen-size bed. The suite has its own private parking area, plus a refrigerator, microwave, extra-large bathroom with a walk-in shower, and use of a private yard, which has a table and chairs and great views of the rock walls of Zion Canyon. Although there are no phones in the rooms, a public phone is available outside.

995 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 204), Springdale, UT 84767. ✆ **888/772-3205** or 435/772-3205. Fax 435/772-2455. www.elriolodge.com. 11 units. Summer $49–$59 double, $65–$70 suite; lower rates in winter. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted for a $10 fee. *In room:* A/C, TV, microwave, no phone.

Flanigan's Inn ★★ This attractive inn, set among trees, lawns, and flowers just outside Zion National Park, is handsomely constructed of natural wood and rock for a distinctive, mountain-lodge atmosphere. Parts of the inn date to 1947, but all rooms have been completely renovated. Rooms have a Southwest decor, wood furnishings, and local art. One room has a fireplace; other units have whirlpool tubs and bidets. Flanigan's has its own nature trail leading to a hilltop vista. Rooms are often booked 3 to 4 months in advance during the summer, so reserve early. You can get a therapeutic massage or a rejuvenating facial, or relax in an aromatic bath in the full-service spa. The entire inn is nonsmoking.

428 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 100), Springdale, UT 84767. ✆ **800/765-7787** or 435/772-3244. Fax 435/772-3396. www.flanigans.com. 34 units. Mid-Mar to mid-Nov and holidays $99–$119 double, $124–$229 suites; lower rates the rest of the year. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see the Spotted Dog Café under "Dining," below); outdoor heated pool; outdoor hot tub; full-service spa. *In room:* A/C, TV, units with kitchenettes available.

Harvest House Bed & Breakfast at Zion ★★ Personal touches and yummy breakfasts make this B&B a fine alternative to a standard motel. Built in 1989, the house is Utah Territorial (a style similar to Victorian) and has a cactus garden out front and a garden sitting area in back, with a koi (Japanese carp) pond and spectacular views of the national park's rock formations. Rooms are charming, comfortable, and quiet, with queen-size beds and private bathrooms. The units are furnished with an eclectic mix of contemporary items, and original art dots the walls. One upstairs room faces west and has grand sunset views, while the other two have private decks facing the impressive formations of Zion.

There's a big-screen TV in the living room with a collection of DVD movies for guests' use, and the gourmet breakfasts are sumptuous, with fresh-baked breads, fresh-squeezed orange juice, granola, fruit, yogurt, and a hot main course.

29 Canyon View Dr. (P.O. Box 125), Springdale, UT 84767. ✆ **800/719-7501** or 435/772-3880. www.harvesthouse.net. 4 units. $100–$125 double. Rates include full breakfast. DISC, MC, V. Children over 6 welcome. **Amenities:** Outdoor hot tub. *In room:* A/C, wireless Internet, no phone.

Zion Park Motel This economical motel is another good choice for travelers on a shoestring, offering comfortable, attractively furnished rooms with showers or tub/shower combos. The family unit sleeps six. A self-service laundry, a small but well-stocked grocery store with camping supplies and an ATM, and a restaurant are adjacent. There is also a picnic area and playground on the premises.

855 Zion Park Blvd. (P.O. Box 365), Springdale, UT 84767. ✆ **435/772-3251.** www.zionparkmotel.com. 21 units. $72 double; $89–$129 family unit and suite. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor heated pool; picnic area; playground; coin-operated laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, full kitchens in 2 units, fridge, microwave.

7 Where to Dine

With the exception of the Red Rock Grill, these restaurants are all located on the main road to the park through Springdale.

IN THE PARK

Red Rock Grill ★★ AMERICAN A mountain-lodge atmosphere prevails here, complete with large windows that look out toward the park's magnificent rock formations. Although the menu changes periodically, house specialties at dinner include the excellent Santa Fe flat iron steak, blackened chicken with mango salsa, chipotle pork cutlets with mashed sweet potatoes, and Ruby Mountain trout amandine. There are also vegetarian items such as roasted vegetable tortellini. At lunch, you'll find grilled salmon burgers, beef burgers, sandwiches, and salads; breakfasts offer all the usuals, including a good buffet. The restaurant will pack lunches to go, and offers full liquor service.

If you are looking for cheaper fare, Zion Lodge's Castle Dome Café serves burgers, sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza, ice cream, and frozen yogurt on an outdoor patio.

Zion Lodge, Zion National Park. ✆ **435/772-7760.** www.zionlodge.com. Dinner reservations required in summer. Breakfast $3.50–$8.50; lunch $5.95–$7.95; main dinner courses $13–$19. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Daily 6:30–10am, 11:30am–3pm, and 5:30–9pm.

NEARBY

Bit & Spur Restaurant & Saloon ★★ MEXICAN/SOUTHWESTERN This may look like an Old West saloon, with its rough wood-and-stone walls and exposed beam ceiling, but it's an unusually clean saloon that has a family dining room, patio seating, and walls decorated with original oil paintings. The food here is a notch or two above what we expected, a bit closer to what you'd find in a good Santa Fe restaurant. The menu changes seasonally and includes Mexican standards such as burritos, flautas, chiles rellenos, and a traditional chile stew with pork and rice. You'll also often find more exotic creations, such as *pollo relleno*—a grilled breast of chicken stuffed with cilantro pesto and goat cheese, served with pineapple salsa; and our personal favorite, a deep-dish chicken enchilada, with scallions, green chiles, and cheese. The Bit & Spur has full liquor service, an extensive wine list, and an excellent variety of microbrewed beers.

1212 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. ✆ **435/772-3498.** www.bitandspur.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses $10–$25. AE, DISC, MC, V. Feb–Nov daily 5–10pm (bar open until midnight); Dec–Jan Thurs–Mon 5–10pm. Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Spotted Dog Café ★ AMERICAN/REGIONAL With a garden atmosphere, this restaurant makes the most of the area's spectacular scenery, with large windows and an outdoor patio. The menu changes seasonally, with an emphasis on fresh local ingredients. Breakfast features homemade granola, fresh fruits and juices, and various egg dishes, including wonderful omelets such as smoked salmon and brie. Dinner selections might include grilled, blackened sushi-quality tuna with avocado, mango, and cilantro salsa; pork loin with a chipotle chile plum sauce; slow-roasted lamb shanks; and black Angus beef. There is an excellent wine cellar, microbrewed draft beers, and complete liquor service.

At Flanigan's Inn, 428 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. ✆ **435/772-3244.** Reservations recommended. Main courses $11–$20. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily 7–11:30am and 5–10pm; reduced hours in winter.

Zion Park Gift & Deli ★ *Value* SANDWICHES Want a top quality deli-style sandwich on the cheap? This is the place. Eat at one of the cafe-style tables inside, on the patio outside, or carry your sandwich off on a hike. All baked goods, including the excellent sandwich breads and sub rolls, are made in-house. In typical deli style, you order at the counter and wait as your sandwich is prepared with your choice of bread, meats, cheeses, and condiments. This is also a good breakfast stop for those who enjoy fresh-baked cinnamon rolls, muffins, banana nut bread, and similar goodies, with a cup of espresso. Locally made candy, including excellent fudge, and 24 flavors of ice cream and frozen yogurt are offered. No alcohol is served.

866 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. ✆ **435/772-3843.** $5–$10. AE, DISC, MC, V. Summer Mon–Sat 8am–9pm; reduced hours in winter.

Zion Pizza & Noodle ★ *Kids* PIZZA/PASTA A favorite of both locals and visitors—including us—this busy cafe is the place to come for good pizza and pasta in a somewhat funky atmosphere—it's located in a former Mormon church with a turquoise steeple. The dining room has small, closely spaced tables and black-and-white photos on the walls. The 12-inch pizzas, with lots of chewy crust, are baked in a slate stone oven. Some of the specialty pies, such as the Southwest burrito pizza or barbecue chicken pizza, are for the more adventurous; but have no fear—you can get a basic cheese pizza or add any of the roughly 17 extra toppings, from pepperoni to green chiles to pineapple. The menu also offers pastas, such as penne pasta with grilled chicken, broccoli, carrots, fresh cream, and cheese; plus calzones and stromboli. Takeout and delivery service are provided. Beer is served inside and in the delightful year-round beer garden.

868 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale. ✆ **435/772-3815.** www.zionpizzanoodle.com. Reservations not accepted. Entrees $7.95–$14. No credit cards. Daily from 4pm; call for winter hours.

8 Two Attractions in Nearby Springdale

Just outside the south entrance to Zion National Park, in Springdale, are two worthwhile attractions.

The **Tanner Twilight Concert Series** presents a varied performing arts program in the stunning, 2000-seat outdoor **O. C. Tanner Amphitheater,** just off Zion Park Boulevard. Performances range from symphony orchestra concerts and dance performances to bluegrass concerts and cowboy poetry presentations. Shows begin at 8pm every Saturday through the summer, and cost $9 for adults and $5 for youths (18 and younger). For information, contact **Dixie College,** in St. George (✆ **435/652-7994;** www.dixie.edu/tanner/index.html).

The **Zion Canyon Theatre,** 145 Zion Park Blvd. (✆ **888/256-3456** or 435/772-2400; www.zioncanyontheatre.com), boasts a huge screen—some six stories high by 80 feet wide. Here you can see the dramatic film *Zion Canyon—Treasure of the Gods,* with thrilling scenes of the Zion National Park area, including a hair-raising flash flood through Zion Canyon's Narrows and some dizzying bird's-eye views. The theater also shows a variety of other Hollywood and large-format films. Admission is $8 adults, $5 children 3 to 11, and is free for children under 3. The theater is open daily from 11am to 8pm in summer; call for winter hours. The theater complex also contains a tourist information center, an ATM, a picnic area, gift and souvenir shops, a Thai restaurant, and a cafe/grocery.

12

Bryce Canyon National Park

If you could visit only one national park in your lifetime, we'd send you to **Bryce Canyon** ★★★. Here you'll find magic, inspiration, and spectacular beauty. The main draw of the park is the thousands of intricately shaped hoodoos: those silent rock sentinels and congregations gathered in colorful cathedrals, arranged in formations that invite your imagination to run wild.

Hoodoos, geologists tell us, are simply pinnacles of rock, often oddly shaped, left standing after millions of years of water and wind have eroded the surrounding rock. But perhaps the real truth lies in a Paiute legend. These American Indians, who lived in the area for several hundred years before being forced out by Anglo pioneers, told of "Legend People" who once lived here; because of their evil ways, they were turned to stone by the powerful Coyote, and even today they remain frozen in time.

Whatever the cause, Bryce Canyon is certainly unique. Its intricate and often whimsical formations are on a more human scale than the impressive rocks seen at Zion, Capitol Reef, and Canyonlands national parks. And Bryce is far easier to explore than the huge and sometimes intimidating Grand Canyon. Bryce is comfortable and inviting in its beauty; we feel we know it just by gazing over the rim, and we're on intimate terms after just one morning on the trail.

Although the colorful hoodoos first grab your attention, it isn't long before you notice the deep amphitheaters, with their cliffs, windows, and arches, all colored in shades of red, brown, orange, yellow, and white that change and glow with the rising and setting sun. Beyond the rocks and light are the other faces of the park: three separate life zones at the various elevations in the park, each with its own unique vegetation; and a kingdom of animals, from the busy chipmunks and ground squirrels to the stately mule deer and their archenemy, the mountain lion.

Human exploration of the Bryce area likely began with the Paiutes, and it's possible that trappers, prospectors, and early Mormon scouts visited here in the early to mid-1800s, before Major John Wesley Powell conducted the first thorough survey of the region in the early 1870s. Shortly after Powell's exploration, Mormon pioneer Ebenezer Bryce and his wife, Mary, moved to the area and tried raising cattle. Although they stayed only a few years before moving on to Arizona, Bryce left behind his name and his oft-quoted description of the canyon as "a helluva place to lose a cow."

1 Just the Facts

GETTING THERE/ACCESS POINTS **Bryce Canyon Airport** (✆ **435/834-5239;** www.brycecanyoncountry.com/county/airport.html), at 7,586 feet elevation, is located several miles from the park entrance on Utah 12, and has a 7,400-foot lighted runway.

Charter service is available from **Bryce Canyon Airlines** (✆ **435/834-5341**). Car rentals are available from **Hertz** (✆ **800/654-3131**).

You can also fly into St. George (130 miles southwest of the park on I-15) or Cedar City (also on I-15, about 80 miles west of the park), and rent a car at either of these airports (see chapter 10).

From St. George, travel north on I-15 10 miles to exit 16, then head east on Utah 9 for 63 miles to U.S. 89, north 44 miles to Utah 12, and east 13 miles to the park entrance road. The entrance station and visitor center are just 3 miles south of Utah 12. From Cedar City (I-15 exits 57, 59, and 62), take Utah 14 west 41 miles to its intersection with U.S. 89, and follow U.S. 89 north 21 miles to Utah 12, then east 17 miles to the park entrance road.

Situated in the mountains of southern Utah, the park is traversed east to west by Utah 12, with the bulk of the park, including the visitor center, accessible via Utah 63, which branches off from Utah 12 and goes south into the main portions of the park. Utah 89 runs north to south, west of the park, and Utah 12 heads east to Tropic and eventually Escalante.

From Salt Lake City, it's approximately 240 miles to the park. Take I-15 south about 200 miles to exit 95, head east 13 miles on Utah 20, south on U.S. 89 for 17 miles to Utah 12, and east on Utah 12 for 13 miles to the park entrance road.

From Capitol Reef National Park, take Utah 24 west 10 miles to Torrey, and turn southwest onto Scenic Highway Utah 12 (through Boulder and Escalante) for about 110 miles, until you reach the park entrance road.

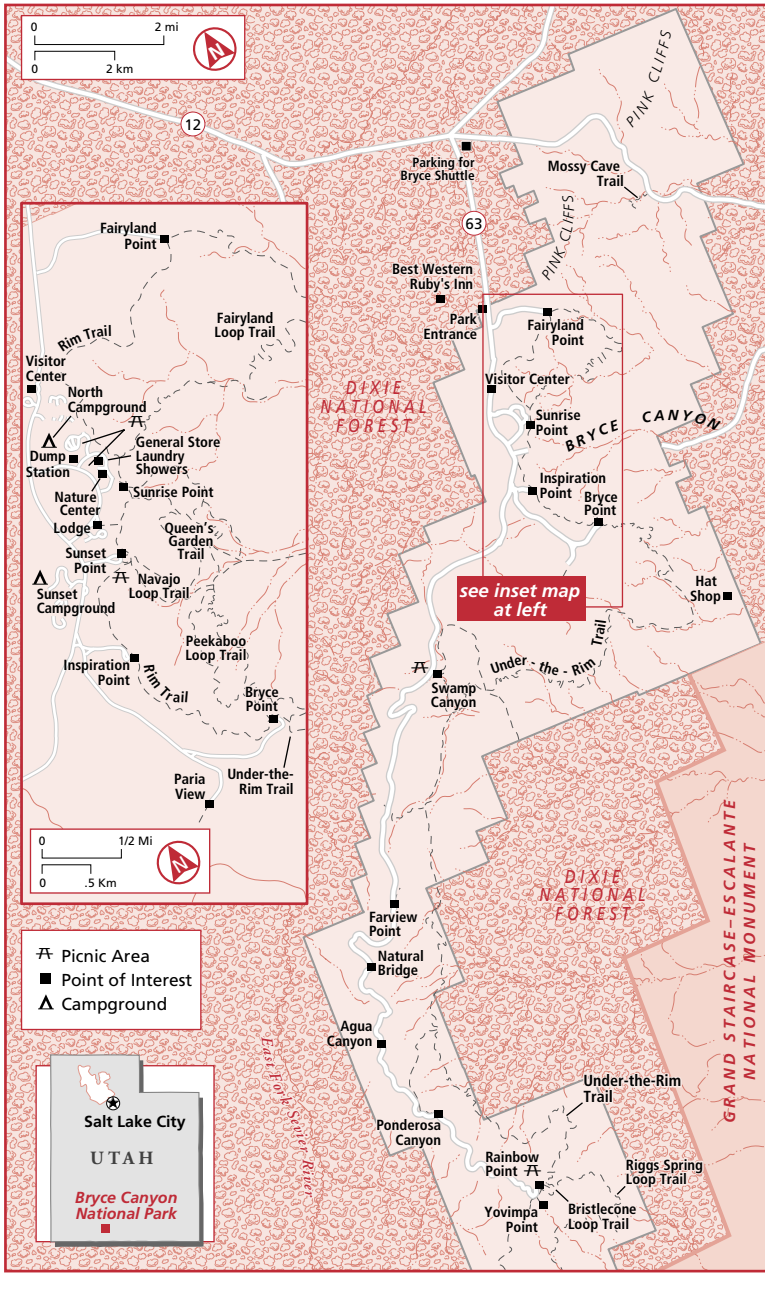
A couple of handy driving distances: Bryce is 83 miles east of Zion National Park and 250 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada.

GETTING AROUND To alleviate congestion along the park's only road, a **shuttle service** is in effect from mid-to-late May to early September, between 9am and 6pm. Visitors can park their cars at the parking and boarding area at the intersection of the entrance road and Utah 12, 3 miles from the park boundary, and ride the shuttle into the park. Those staying in the park at Bryce Canyon Lodge or one of the campgrounds can also use the shuttle, at no additional charge. The shuttle has stops at various viewpoints, as well as Ruby's Inn, Ruby's Campground, the visitor center, Sunset Campground, and Bryce Canyon Lodge. It runs every 10 to 15 minutes.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER For advance information, contact the park at P.O. Box 170001, Bryce Canyon, UT 84717 (✆ **435/834-5322;** www.nps.gov/brca). If you desire even more details to help plan your trip, you can order books, maps, posters, DVDs, and videos (in VHS and PAL formats) from the nonprofit **Bryce Canyon Natural History Association,** Box 170002, Bryce Canyon, UT 84717 (✆ **888/362-2642** or 435/834-4600; www.brycecanyon.org). The association does not offer memberships at this time, but does give a discount to current members of other national park natural history associations.

The **visitor center,** at the north end of the park, has exhibits on the geology and history of the area and a short introductory slide show on the park. Rangers can answer questions and provide backcountry permits. Free brochures are available, and books, maps, videos, and posters can be purchased. The visitor center is open daily year-round except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. It's open 8am to 8pm in summer, with reduced hours at other times.

Bryce Canyon National Park



FEES, BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS & REGULATIONS Entry into the park (for up to 7 days) costs $20 per private vehicle, which includes unlimited use of the park shuttle (when it's operating). Campsites cost $10 per night.

Backcountry camping permits ($5 per trip), available at the visitor center, are required for all overnight trips into the backcountry. Backcountry camping is permitted on only two trails (see "Hiking," below).

Backcountry hikers should practice minimum-impact techniques, are prohibited from building fires, and must carry their own water. Bicycles are prohibited in the backcountry and on all trails. Feeding or disturbing wildlife is forbidden, as is vandalizing or upsetting any natural feature of the park. Dogs, which must be leashed at all times, are prohibited on all trails, in the backcountry, and in public buildings.

SEASONS/AVOIDING THE CROWDS Although Bryce Canyon National Park receives only two-thirds the number of annual visitors that pour into Zion, the park can still be crowded, especially during its peak season from June through September, when the campgrounds are often full by 2pm. If you visit then, head for some of the lesser-used trails (ask rangers for recommendations) and start your hike as soon after sunrise as possible.

A better time to visit, if your schedule allows, is spring or fall, and if you don't mind a bit of cold and snow, the park is practically deserted from December through February—and the sight of bright red hoodoos capped with fresh white snow is something you won't soon forget.

SAFETY While most visitors to Bryce Canyon enjoy an exciting vacation without mishap, accidents can occur, and here—possibly because of the nature of the trails—the most common injuries by far are sprained, twisted, and broken ankles. Park rangers strongly recommend that hikers—even those just out for short day hikes—wear sturdy hiking boots with good traction and ankle support.

Another concern in the park is bubonic plague, which, contrary to popular belief, is treatable with antibiotics if caught in its early stages. The bacteria that causes bubonic plague has been found on fleas in prairie dog colonies in the park, so you should avoid contact with wild animals, particularly prairie dogs, chipmunks, ground squirrels, and other rodents. Those taking pets into the park should first dust them with flea powder.

RANGER PROGRAMS Evening talks, which may include a slide show, take place most nights at campground amphitheaters. Topics vary, but could include such subjects as the animals and plants of the park, geology, and the role of humans in the park's early days. Rangers also give half-hour talks on similar subjects several times daily at various locations in the park. They also lead hikes and walks, including a moonlight hike (reservations required) and a wheelchair-accessible 1-hour canyon rim

Tips Getting a Bird's-Eye View of the Park

For an unforgettable view of the canyon and its numerous formations, contact **Bryce Canyon Airlines & Helicopters** (ask for the flight desk at Ruby's Inn, ✆ **866/866-6616** or 435/834-5341; www.rubysinn.com). Tours last from about 35 minutes to more than an hour, and the longer trips include surrounding attractions. Prices are about $70 per person, with discounts for families and groups.

walk. Schedules are posted on bulletin boards at the visitor center, general store, campgrounds, and Bryce Canyon Lodge.

During the summer, children 12 and younger can join the **Junior Rangers** for a nominal fee. Junior Rangers participate in a variety of programs, and earn certificates and patches. Junior Ranger booklets are available at the visitor center. In addition, park rangers periodically conduct **special kids' activities**—usually lasting about an hour and a half—on subjects such as the park ecology. Reservations are required—contact the visitor center for information.

2 Seeing the Highlights

Because Bryce Canyon is our favorite national park, we would be happy to spend our entire vacation here. But, if you insist on being unreasonable and saving time and energy for the many other fascinating and beautiful parts of Utah, there are ways to see a good deal of Bryce in a short amount of time.

Start at the **visitor center,** of course, and watch the short slide show that explains some of the area geology. Then hop on the **Bryce Canyon Area Tours & Adventures** van (see below), for a guided tour complete with lively commentary, or drive the 18-mile (one-way) dead-end **park road,** stopping at viewpoints to gaze down into the canyon (see "Exploring Bryce Canyon by Car," below). An alternative is to take the **shuttle system** (discussed above), which will take you to most of the main viewpoints.

Whichever way you choose to get around, make sure you spend at least a little time at **Inspiration Point,** which offers a splendid (and yes, inspirational) view of **Bryce Amphitheater** and its hundreds of statuesque pink, red, orange, and brown hoodoo stone sculptures.

After seeing the canyon from the top down, it's time to get some exercise, so walk at least partway down the **Queen's Garden Trail.** If you can spare 3 hours, hike down the Navajo Loop and return to the rim via the Queen's Garden Trail (p. 239). Those not willing or physically able to hike into the canyon can enjoy a leisurely walk along the **Rim Trail,** which provides spectacular views into the canyon. The views are especially gorgeous about an hour before sunset. In the evening, try to take in the campground amphitheater program.

Bryce Canyon Area Tours & Adventures (✆ **800/432-5383** or 435/834-5200; www.brycetours.com) offers 1½- to 2-hour tours year-round, leaving from Bryce Canyon Resort next to the shuttle parking area outside the park entrance, at the intersection of the park entrance road and Utah 12. A general tour, stopping at several viewpoints, costs $26 for adults, $12 for children 5 to 15, and is free for children under 5. Sunset and other specialized tours are also available.

3 Exploring Bryce Canyon by Car

The park's **18-mile scenic drive** (one-way) follows the rim of Bryce Canyon, offering easy access to a variety of views into the fanciful fairyland of stone sculptures below. Trailers are not permitted on the road, but can be left at several parking lots. All the overlooks are on your left as you begin your drive, so it's best to drive all the way to the end of the road and stop at the overlooks on your return trip. Allow 1 to 2 hours.

From the visitor center, drive 18 miles to **Yovimpa and Rainbow Point overlooks,** which offer expansive views of southern Utah, Arizona, and often even New Mexico. From these pink cliffs, you can look down on a colorful platoon of stone soldiers,

standing at eternal attention. A short loop trail from Rainbow Point leads to a **1,800-year-old bristlecone pine,** believed to be the oldest living thing at Bryce Canyon.

From here, drive back north to **Ponderosa Canyon Overlook,** where you can gaze down from a dense forest of spruce and fir at multicolored hoodoos, before continuing to **Agua Canyon Overlook,** which has views of some of the best color contrasts you'll find in the park. Looking almost straight down, watch for a hoodoo known as **The Hunter,** wearing a hat of green trees.

Now continue on to **Natural Bridge,** actually an arch carved by rain and wind and spanning 85 feet. From here, go on to **Farview Point,** where there's a panoramic view to the distant horizon and the Kaibab Plateau at the Grand Canyon's north rim. Passing through **Swamp Canyon,** you'll turn right off the main road to three viewpoints, the first of which is **Paria View,** with views to the south of the light-colored sandstone White Cliffs, carved by the Paria River. To the north of Paria View, you'll find **Bryce Point,** a splendid stop for seeing the awesome **Bryce Amphitheater,** the largest natural amphitheater in the park, as well as distant views of the Black Mountains to the northeast and the Navajo Mountain to the south. From here, it's just a short drive to **Inspiration Point,** offering views similar to those at Bryce Point plus the best vantage point for seeing the **Silent City,** a sleeping city cast in stone.

Return to the main road and head north to **Sunset Point,** where you can see practically all of Bryce Amphitheater, including the aptly named **Thor's Hammer** and the 200-foot-tall cliffs of **Wall Street.**

Continue north to a turnoff for your final stop at **Sunrise Point,** where there's an inspiring view into Bryce Amphitheater. This is the beginning of the **Queen's Garden Trail** ★★, an excellent choice for a walk below the canyon's rim (p. 239).

4 Outdoor Pursuits

In addition to the activities in Bryce Canyon National Park, there's plenty to do in the adjacent **Dixie National Forest.** From about early May to mid-October, you can stop at the national forest's **Red Canyon Visitor Center,** along Utah 12 about 11 miles west of the Bryce Canyon National Park entrance road (✆ **435/676-2676**), or contact the Powell District office of the **Dixie National Forest,** 225 E. Center St. (P.O. Box 80), Panguitch, UT 84759-0080 (✆ **435/676-9300;** www.fs.fed.us/dxnf).

BIKING & MOUNTAIN BIKING

The park's established scenic drive is open to cyclists, but bikes are prohibited on all trails and forbidden from traveling cross-country within the national park boundaries.

Because mountain bikers are not welcome on national park hiking trails, you'll have to leave Bryce in search of trails. Fortunately, you won't have to go far. **Dave's Hollow Trail** ★ starts at the Bryce Canyon National Park boundary sign on Utah 63 (the park entrance road) about a mile south of Ruby's Inn. The double-track trail goes west for about a half-mile before connecting with Forest Road 090, where you turn south and ride for about three-quarters of a mile before turning right onto an easy ride through Dave's Hollow to the Dave's Hollow Forest Service Station on Forest Road 087. From here, you can retrace your route for an 8-mile round-trip ride; for a 12-mile trip, turn right on Forest Road 087 to Utah 12 and then right again back to Utah 63 and the starting point. A third option is to turn left on Forest Road 087 and follow it to Tropic Reservoir (see "Fishing," below). This part of the journey does not form a loop, so you would turn around once you've reached the reservoir.

FISHING

The closest fishing hole to the park is **Tropic Reservoir,** a large lake in a ponderosa pine forest. From the intersection of Utah 63 (the park entrance road) and Utah 12, drive west about 3 miles to a gravel road, then about 7 miles south. You'll find a forest service campground open in summer, two boat ramps, and fishing for rainbow, brook, and cutthroat trout. Locals say fishing can be better in streams above the lake than in the reservoir itself. For further information, contact the **Dixie National Forest** (p. 238).

HIKING

One of the things we like best about Bryce Canyon is that you don't have to be an advanced backpacker to really get to know the park. However, all trails below the rim have at least some steep grades, so wear hiking boots with a traction tread and good ankle support to avoid ankle injuries. During the hot summer months, you'll want to hike either early or late in the day, carry plenty of water, and keep in mind that the deeper you go into the canyon, the hotter it gets.

The **Rim Trail,** which does not drop into the canyon but offers splendid views from above, meanders along the rim for over 5 miles. Overlooking Bryce Amphitheater, the trail offers excellent views along the majority of its length. An easy to moderate walk, it includes a .5-mile section between two overlooks—Sunrise and Sunset—that is suitable for wheelchairs. This trail is a good choice for an after-dinner stroll, when you can watch the changing evening light on the rosy rocks below.

Your best bet for getting down into the canyon and seeing the most with the least amount of sweat is to combine two popular trails—**Navajo Loop** ★★★ and **Queen's Garden.** The total distance is just under 3 miles, with a 521-foot elevation change, and it takes most hikers from 2 to 3 hours to complete the trek. It's best to start at the Navajo Loop trail head at Sunset Point and leave the canyon on the less-steep Queen's Garden Trail, returning to the rim at Sunrise Point, .5 mile to the north. The Navajo Loop section is considered fairly strenuous; Queen's Garden is rated moderate. Along the Navajo Loop section, you'll pass Thor's Hammer and wonder why it hasn't fallen, then ponder the towering skyscrapers of Wall Street. Turning onto the Queen's Garden Trail, you'll see some of the park's most fanciful formations—including majestic Queen Victoria herself, for whom the trail was named—plus the Queen's Castle and Gulliver's Castle.

Challenge seekers might consider the **Hat Shop Trail,** a strenuous 3.8-mile round-trip with a 900-foot elevation change. Leaving from the Bryce Point Overlook, you'll drop quickly to the Hat Shop, so-named because it consists of hard gray "hats" perched on narrow reddish-brown pedestals. Allow 4 hours.

For die-hard hikers who don't mind rough terrain, Bryce has two backcountry trails, usually open in summer only. The **Under-the-Rim Trail** runs for some 23 miles, providing an excellent opportunity to see the park's spectacular scenery on its own terms. **Riggs Spring Loop Trail,** 8.8 miles long, offers splendid views of the pink cliffs in the southern part of the park. The truly ambitious can combine the two trails for a weeklong excursion. Permits, which cost $5 and are available at the visitor center, are required for all overnight trips into the backcountry.

HORSEBACK RIDING

To see Bryce Canyon the way early pioneers did, you need to look down from a horse or mule. **Canyon Trail Rides,** P.O. Box 128, Tropic, UT 84776 (✆ **435/679-8665;**

www.canyonrides.com), offers a close-up view of Bryce's spectacular rock formations from the relative comfort of a saddle. They have a desk inside Bryce Lodge. A 2-hour ride to the canyon floor and back costs $40 per person, and a half-day trip farther into the canyon costs $55 per person. Rides are offered April through November. Riders must be at least 7 years old for the 2-hour trip, at least 10 for the half-day ride, and weigh no more than 220 pounds.

Guided horseback rides in Red Canyon, just outside the national park, are provided by **Ruby's Inn Horserides** (✆ **866/782-0002** or 435/834-5341; www.horserides.net), at Ruby's Inn, at similar rates; in addition, Ruby's offers a full-day ride with lunch for $90. Ruby's will also board your horse (call for rates).

WILDLIFE WATCHING

The park is home to a variety of wildlife, ranging from mule deer to mountain short-horned lizards, which visitors often spot while hiking down into the canyon. Occasionally you'll catch a glimpse of a mountain lion, most likely on the prowl in search of a mule-deer dinner; elk and pronghorn may also be seen at higher elevations.

The Utah prairie dog, listed as a threatened species, is actually a rodent. It inhabits park meadows, but should be avoided, as its fleas may carry disease (see "Safety," earlier in the chapter).

Of the many birds in the park, you're bound to hear the obnoxious call of the Steller's jay. Watch for swifts and swallows as they perform their exotic acrobatics along cliff faces; binoculars will come in handy.

The Great Basin rattlesnake, although pretty, should be given a wide berth. Sometimes more than 5 feet long, this rattler is the park's only poisonous reptile. However, like most rattlesnakes, it is just as anxious as you are to avoid confrontation.

WINTER FUN

Bryce is beautiful in the winter, when the white snow creates a perfect frosting on the red, pink, orange, and brown statues standing proudly against the cold winds. Cross-country skiers will find several marked, ungroomed trails (all above the rim), including the **Fairyland Loop Trail** ★★, which leads 1 mile through a pine and juniper forest to the Fairyland Point Overlook. From here take the 1-mile **Forest Trail** back to the road, or continue north along the rim for another 1¼ miles to the park border.

There are also connections to ski trails in the adjacent national forest.

Stop at the visitor center for additional trail information, and go to **Best Western Ruby's Inn,** just north of the park entrance (✆ **866/866-6616** or 435/834-5341; www.rubysinn.com), for information on cross-country ski trails and snowmobiling opportunities outside the park. Ruby's grooms over 30 miles of ski trails, and also rents cross-country ski equipment.

Snowshoeing is allowed anywhere in the park except on cross-country ski tracks.

Tips Winter Safety

Although the entire park is open to cross-country skiers, rangers warn that it's extremely dangerous to try to ski on the steep—and often slick—trails leading down into the canyon.

5 Camping

IN THE PARK

Typical of the West's national park campgrounds, the two campgrounds at Bryce offer plenty of trees for a genuine "forest camping" experience, easy access to trails, and limited facilities. **North Campground** ★ has 107 sites; **Sunset Campground** has 101 sites. One loop in North Campground is open year-round; Sunset Campground is open May through September only. We prefer North Campground because it's closer to the Rim Trail—making it easier to rush over to catch those amazing sunrise and sunset colors—but we would gladly take any site in either campground. Neither has RV hookups or showers, but you will find modern restrooms with running water. North Campground accepts reservations through **National Recreation Reservation Service** (✆ **877/444-6777;** www.reserveusa.com), with a $9 booking fee. Sunset Campground does not accept reservations, so get to the campground early to claim a site (usually by 2pm in summer). Cost is $10 per night at both campgrounds.

Showers ($2), a coin-operated laundry, a snack bar, bundles of firewood, food and camping supplies, and souvenirs, are located at the **General Store** (for information, contact Bryce Canyon Lodge ✆ **435/834-5361**), which is usually open daily from mid-April through October. The store is a healthy walk from either campground. The park service operates an RV dump station ($2 fee) in the summer. Tables on a covered porch run along one side of the building.

NEARBY

In addition to the campgrounds listed below, there is camping at Kodachrome Basin State Park; see p. 246.

King Creek Campground Located above Tropic Reservoir, this forest service campground, at 8,000 feet elevation, has graded gravel roads and sites nestled among tall ponderosa pines. Facilities include flush toilets, drinking water, and an RV dump station, but no showers or RV hookups. The reservoir has two boat ramps (see "Fishing," above). To get to the campground from the Bryce Canyon National Park entrance, go north 3 miles on Utah 63 to Utah 12, turn west (left), and go 2½ miles to the King's Creek Campground Road; turn south (left) and follow signs to Tropic Reservoir for about 7 miles to the campground.

Powell District, Dixie National Forest, P.O. Box 80, Panguitch, UT 84759-0080. ✆ **435/676-9300.** www.fs.fed.us/dxnf. 37 sites. $10. No credit cards. Closed Labor Day to Memorial Day.

Ruby's Inn RV Park & Campground The closest campground to Bryce Canyon National Park that offers complete RV hookups, Ruby's is on the park's shuttle-bus route. Many sites are shaded, there's an attractive tent area, and adjacent to the campground are a lake and horse pasture. Campground facilities include a swimming pool, two coin-op laundries, a game room, horseshoes, barbecue grills, and a store with groceries and RV supplies. Also on the grounds are several camping cabins ($45 double) and tepees ($26 double), which share the campground's bathhouse and other facilities. 127 sites have RV hookups and 100 sites accommodate tents.

1280 S. Utah 63, Bryce, UT 84764. ✆ **866/866-6616** or 435/834-5301; Nov–Mar ✆ 435/834-5341. www.rubysinn.com. 227 total sites. Full hookups $29; electric/water only $6; tent space $18. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Closed Oct to Apr.

6 Where to Stay

Room taxes add about 10% to the cost. Pets are not accepted unless otherwise noted.

IN THE PARK

Bryce Canyon Lodge ★★★ Location is what you're paying for here, and there's no denying that this is the perfect place to stay while visiting Bryce Canyon, allowing you to watch the play of changing light on the rock formations at various times of the day. The handsome sandstone and ponderosa pine lodge, which opened in 1924, contains a busy lobby, with information desks for horseback riding and other activities, and a gift shop that offers everything from postcards and souvenirs to Navajo rugs, top-quality silver-and-turquoise jewelry, and a good selection of fine American Indian jewelry.

The lodge suites are luxurious, with ceiling fans and separate sitting rooms. The motel rooms are simple; although the outside of the motel building looks like a hunting lodge, the guest units are pleasant, modern motel rooms, quite spacious, with two queen-size beds and either a balcony or patio. There's nothing at all wrong with them, except that the surroundings and exterior lead you to expect something more interesting. We'd choose the "rustic luxury" of one of the cabins, which have been restored to their 1920s decor. They're fairly small, although the tall ceilings give a feeling of spaciousness, with stone (gas-burning) fireplaces, two double beds, and log beams. It seems just the right place to stay in a beautiful national park setting like Bryce Canyon. All units are nonsmoking.

Bryce Canyon National Park. ✆ **435/834-5361.** Information and reservations: Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Central Reservations, 6312 S. Fiddlers Green Circle, Suite 600N, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. ✆ **888/297-2757** or 303/297-2757. Fax 303/297-3175. www.brycecanyonlodge.com. 114 units, 110 in motel rooms and cabins, 3 suites, and 1 studio in lodge. $125 motel double; $130 cabin; $110–$140 lodge unit. AE, DISC, MC, V. Closed Nov–Mar. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see "Dining," below); activities desk.

NEARBY

Best Western Ruby's Inn ★★ Kids This large Best Western provides most of the beds used by tired hikers and canyon-rim gazers visiting Bryce Canyon National Park. The lobby, with a stone fireplace and a Western motif of animal-head trophies and Indian blankets, is among the busiest places in the area, with an ATM, small liquor store, beauty salon, 1-hour film processor, and information and activities desks where you can arrange excursions of all sorts, from horseback and all-terrain-vehicle rides to helicopter tours. Just off the lobby, you'll find a restaurant; a Western art gallery; a huge general store that carries souvenirs, cowboy hats, Western clothing, camping supplies, and groceries; and a U.S. post office. Outside are gas stations and car rentals.

Spread among nine separate buildings, the modern motel rooms feature wood furnishings, art that depicts scenes of the area, and combination tub/showers; some have one- or two-person whirlpool tubs. Rooms at the back of the complex will be a bit quieter, but you'll have to walk farther to all the lobby activities. Amenities include two indoor pools, one indoor and one outdoor whirlpool, a sun deck, nature and cross-country ski trails, a game room, a concierge, a business center, conference rooms, two coin-op laundries, and courtesy transportation from the Bryce Airport.

1000 S. Utah 63 (at the entrance to Bryce Canyon), Bryce, UT 84764. ✆ **866/866-6616** or 435/834-5341. Fax 435/834-5265. www.rubysinn.com. 368 units, including 60 suites. June–Sept $105–$150 double, $166–$176 suite; the rest of the year $52–$135 double, $98–$145 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see Cowboy's Buffet and Steak Room, p. 244); 2 indoor pools; 1 indoor and 1 outdoor whirlpool; game room;

concierge; multiple activities desks; car-rental desk; courtesy transportation from the Bryce Airport; business center; general store; liquor store; salon; 2 coin-op laundries. *In room:* A/C, TV.

Bryce Country Cabins ★ There's something special about staying in a log cabin during a national park vacation, but there's also something very appealing about hot showers and warm beds. Bryce Country Cabins offers the best of both worlds, with six recently constructed log-style cabins and a historic two-room pioneer cottage, set on a 20-acre farm. The surrounding grounds are nicely landscaped with views out over the national park, although we wish the units were farther back from the highway. The intriguing part, though, is the farm behind the buildings, where cattle graze in the fields and chickens strut like they own the place.

The comfortable cabins have knotty pine walls and ceilings, exposed beams, and ceiling fans. Each has two queen-size beds, a table with two chairs, a private porch, and outdoor barbecues. Bathrooms have showers only. The cottage, built in 1905, has two spacious rooms with country-style decor, each with its own entrance. Both of the rooms have two queen-size beds and full bathrooms with tub/shower combos. The cottage's two rooms can be rented together or individually.

320 N. Main St. (Utah 12; P.O. Box 141), Tropic, UT 84776. ✆ **888/679-8643** or 435/679-8643. Fax 435/679-8989. www.brycecountrycabins.com. 8 units. Summer $75–$85 double in cabins and cottages; lower rates at other times. AE, DC, MC, V. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, microwave.

Bryce Point Bed & Breakfast ★ Unique and comfortable lodging, great views, and homemade breakfasts make this B&B an excellent choice. Lamar and Ethel LeFevre have named and decorated each room in their bed-and-breakfast for one of their children. For instance, son Les is a firefighter, so the Les and Dela room contains firefighting memorabilia and photos; and because Lynn is in the airline industry, you'll find airplane-related mementos in his and Karen's room. The decor is tasteful and not overdone, and most rooms offer beautiful views of Bryce Point through large picture windows. All rooms have queen-size or king-size beds and private bathrooms (showers only). The honeymoon cottage is beautifully furnished in country style, with a gas fireplace in the living room, a full kitchen, a washer and dryer, and a king-size bed in the spacious bedroom. Breakfasts are full, satisfying, and homemade, with selections such as bacon and eggs with pancakes and apple cider syrup. The B&B is entirely nonsmoking.

61 N. 400 W. (P.O. Box 96), Tropic, UT 84776-0096. ✆ **888/200-4211** or ✆/fax 435/679-8629. www.brycepointlodging.com. 6 units. $70–$80 double; $90–$120 honeymoon cottage. Rates include full breakfast. MC, V. **Amenities:** Large enclosed Jacuzzi. *In room:* TV/VCR, dataport, no phone.

Bryce Valley Inn These simply decorated, basic motel rooms are a clean, economical choice for park visitors. Rooms, all of which have tub/shower combos, are furnished with either one or two queen-size beds. There's one suite with two queen-size and a hide-a-bed. A gift shop on the premises offers a large selection of American Indian arts and crafts, rocks, fossils, and handmade gifts.

199 N. Scenic Byway 12, Tropic, UT 84776. ✆ **866/679-8811** or 435/679-8811. Fax 435/679-8846. www.bryce valleyinn.com. 65 units. May to mid-Oct $65–$80 double and suite; mid-Oct to Apr $45–$60 double and suite. AE, DISC, MC, V. 8 miles east of the park entrance road. Small pets accepted ($10 fee). **Amenities:** Restaurant (see Hungry Coyote Restaurant under "Dining," below); 24-hr. coin-operated laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV.

Bryce View Lodge *Value* This basic modern American motel gets our vote for the best combination of economy and location. It consists of four two-story buildings, set back from the road and grouped around a large parking lot and an attractively landscaped area.

Rooms are simple but comfortable, recently refurbished, and quite quiet. Guests have access to the amenities across the street at Ruby's Inn.

991 S. Utah 63 (P.O. Box 64002), Bryce, UT 84764. ✆ **888/279-2304** or 435/834-5180. Fax 435/834-5181. www.bryceviewlodge.com. 160 units. Summer $73–$93 double; the rest of the year $52–$72 double. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** See Best Western Ruby's Inn, p. 242. *In room:* A/C, TV.

Foster's *Value* You'll find clean, quiet, economical lodging at Foster's. A modular unit contains small rooms, each with either one queen-size or two double beds, decorated with posters showing scenery of the area; bathrooms have showers only. Also on the grounds is a grocery store (open 7am–10pm) with a rather nice bakery.

1150 Utah 12 (P.O. Box 640010), Bryce, UT 84764. ✆ **435/834-5227.** Fax 435/834-5304. www.fostersmotel.com. 52 units. Summer $50 double; winter $35 double. AE, DISC, MC, V. 1½ miles west of the national park access road turnoff. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see "Dining," below). *In room:* A/C, TV.

7 Where to Dine

IN THE PARK

Bryce Canyon Lodge ★★ AMERICAN We would come here just for the mountain-lodge atmosphere, with two large stone fireplaces and large windows looking out on the park. But the food's good, too, and reasonably priced considering that this is the only real restaurant in the park. The menu is subject to change, but dinner is likely to include house specialties such as garlic roasted pork loin with raspberry chipotle glaze and grilled trout amandine. The menu also offers steaks, chicken, and several vegetarian selections. The lodge's specialty ice creams and desserts include the exotic (and very tasty) wild "Bryceberry" bread pudding. At lunch, you'll find sandwiches, salads, and other lighter items; and breakfasts offer all the usual American standards and an excellent breakfast buffet. The restaurant offers full liquor service.

Bryce Canyon National Park. ✆ **435/834-5361.** www.brycecanyonlodge.com. Reservations required for dinner. Breakfast and lunch main courses $4.95–$9.95; dinner main courses $13–$22. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Daily 6:30–10:30am, 11am–3:30pm, and 5:30–9:30pm. Closed Nov–Mar.

NEARBY

Canyon Diner/Piccadilly Pizza *Kids* AMERICAN Part of the Ruby's Inn complex, this fast-food restaurant is a great place to fill up the kids without going broke. Breakfasts, served until 11am, include bagels and several egg croissants; for lunch and dinner, you can get hoagies, burgers, hot dogs, particularly good stuffed potatoes, fresh-made pizza, broiled chicken sandwiches, and salads. We especially recommend the Piccadilly (English-style) chips. No alcohol is served.

Just north of the park entrance on Utah 63, at Ruby's Inn, Bryce. ✆ **435/834-5341.** www.rubysinn.com. Reservations not accepted. Individual items $3–$6.95; meals $5.50–$9.50. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily 6:30am–9:30pm. Closed Nov–Mar.

Cowboy's Buffet and Steak Room STEAK/SEAFOOD The busiest restaurant in the Bryce Canyon area, this main restaurant at the Best Western Ruby's Inn moves 'em through with buffets at every meal, plus a well-rounded menu and friendly service. The breakfast buffet offers an unexpected number of choices, with scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, several breakfast meats, potatoes, pastries, and cereals. At the lunch buffet, you'll find country-style ribs, fresh fruit, salads, soups, vegetables, and breads; while the dinner buffet features charbroiled thin-sliced rib-eye steak and other meats, pastas, potatoes, and salads. Regular menu dinner entrees include prime rib, slow roasted baby back ribs, breaded-and-grilled southern Utah rainbow trout, broiled chicken

breast, burgers, and salads. In addition to the large, Western-style dining room, an outdoor patio is open in good weather. Full liquor service is available.

Utah 63, at Ruby's Inn, Bryce. ✆ **435/834-5341.** www.rubysinn.com. Reservations not accepted. Breakfast and lunch main courses and buffets $5.95–$15; dinner main courses and buffets $8.95–$25. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Summer daily 6:30am–10pm; winter daily 6:30am–9pm.

Foster's Family Steak House STEAK/SEAFOOD The simple Western decor here provides the right atmosphere for a family steakhouse. Locally popular for its slow-roasted prime rib and steamed Utah trout, Foster's also offers several steaks (carnivores like us appreciate the 14-oz. T-bone), sandwiches, a soup of the day, and homemade chili with beans. All of the pastries, pies, and breads are baked on the premises. Bottled beer is available with meals.

1150 Utah 12, about 1½ miles west of the park entrance road. ✆ **435/834-5227.** www.fostersmotel.com. Breakfast and lunch items $1.75–$6; main dinner courses $9–$20. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mar–Nov daily 7am–10pm; Dec–Feb daily 3–10pm.

Hungry Coyote Restaurant AMERICAN/WESTERN Rough wood walls, kerosene lanterns, and warnings to "check your gun with the waitress" all contribute to the fun Old West atmosphere here. You can get all the usual breakfast dishes, including bacon and eggs. Red-meat lovers will savor the thick 20-ounce T-bone or a lean buffalo burger; also good are the local trout and grilled chicken breast. The restaurant offers full liquor service.

199 N. Main St. (at Bryce Valley Inn), Tropic. ✆ **435/679-8822.** www.brycevalleyinn.com. Breakfast $3.95–$6.95; dinner main courses $7–$21. AE, MC, V. Daily 6:30–10:30am and 5–10pm; reduced hours in winter.

8 More to See & Do Just Outside Bryce Canyon

The **Best Western Ruby's Inn** (✆ **435/834-5341**), on Utah 63 just north of the Bryce Canyon National Park entrance (see "Where to Stay," earlier in this chapter), is practically a one-stop entertainment center for those looking for a bit of variety in their Bryce Canyon vacation.

Directly across Utah 63 from the inn are **Old Bryce Town Shops,** open daily 8am to 10pm from mid-May through September, where you'll find a rock shop, souvenir shops, and a Christmas store. You'll also have the opportunity to buy that genuine cowboy hat you've been wanting. There's a trail here especially for kids, where they can search for arrowheads, fossils, and petrified wood. You can also try your hand at panning for gold.

Nearby, **Bryce Canyon Country Rodeo** (✆ **866/782-0002** or 435/834-5355, ext. 7198) showcases bucking broncos, bull riding, calf roping, and all sorts of rodeo fun in a 1-hour program from Memorial Day weekend to mid-September, Monday through Saturday evenings at 7pm. Admission is $8 for adults, $5 for children 3 to 12, and free for children under 3.

RED CANYON

About 9 miles west of Bryce Canyon National Park, in the Dixie National Forest, is Red Canyon, named for its vermilion-colored rock formations, which are accented by stands of rich green ponderosa pine. The canyon is a favorite of hikers and mountain bikers in summer and cross-country skiers and snowshoers in winter.

There are about a dozen trails in Red Canyon; information is available from the forest service (✆ **435/676-9300;** www.fs.fed.us/dxnf). Some trails are open to hikers

only, others to mountain bikers, horseback riders, and those with all-terrain vehicles. One especially scenic multi-use trail is the 5.3-mile (one-way) **Casto Canyon Trail,** which runs along the bottom of Casto Canyon. It connects with the 8.7-mile (one-way) **Cassidy Trail** and 3-mile (one-way) **Losee Canyon Trail** to produce a 17-mile loop that's ideal for a multi-day backpacking trip. Watch for elk in winter, and pronghorn and raptors year-round. The Casto Canyon and Losee Canyon Trails are considered moderate; Cassidy Trail ranges from easy to strenuous.

For maps, specific directions to trail heads, current trail conditions, and additional information, stop at the **Red Canyon Visitor Center** along Utah 12 about 11 miles west of the Bryce Canyon National Park entrance road (✆ **435/676-2676**).

9 Kodachrome Basin: A Picture-Perfect State Park

Located about 22 miles from the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park, Kodachrome Basin offers wonderful scenery begging to be captured on film (regardless of brand or type). Named by the National Geographic Society in 1949, the park is filled with tall stone towers—called chimneys—and pink-and-white sandstone cliffs, all set among the contrasting greens of sagebrush and piñon and juniper trees. It also abuts and makes a good base for exploring the Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, which is discussed below.

Because temperatures get a bit warm here in summer—the park is at 5,800 feet elevation—the best times to visit, especially for hikers, are May, September, and October, when there are also fewer people.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE From Bryce Canyon National Park, go 3 miles north to the junction of Utah 63 and Utah 12, go east (right) on Utah 12 for about 12 miles to Cannonville, turn south onto the park's access road (there's a sign), and go about 7 miles to the park entrance.

INFORMATION, FEES & REGULATIONS Contact the **park office** at P.O. Box 180069, Cannonville, UT 84718-0069 (✆ **435/679-8562;** www.stateparks.utah.gov). Day use costs $5 per vehicle. Dogs are permitted in the park and on trails, but must be leashed. There is no visitor center, but the office at the park entrance can give you information.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

HIKING Kodachrome Basin offers several hiking possibilities. Starting just south of the campground, the **Panorama Trail** is only moderately difficult, with no steep climbs. At first, it follows an old, relatively flat wagon route, then climbs to offer views of the park's rock formations before reaching the well-named Panorama Point. Along the way are several possible side trips, including a short walk to the **Hat Shop,** so named because the formations resemble broad-brimmed hats, and **White Buffalo Loop,** where you can try to find a formation that looks like—you guessed it?—a white buffalo. The optional **Big Bear Geyser Trail** is a bit more difficult, winding past Big Bear and Mama Bear before returning to Panorama Trail. Allow 2 to 3 hours for the Panorama Trail and an extra hour for Big Bear Geyser Trail.

Fans of arches will want to drive the dirt road to the trail head for the .5-mile round-trip hike to **Shakespeare Arch,** discovered by park manager Tom Shakespeare. This trail also provides views of a large chimney-rock formation.

HORSEBACK RIDING & STAGECOACH RIDES Located in the park along the park road (you can't miss it), **Trail Head Station** (✆ **435/679-8536** or 435/679-8787; www.brycecanyoninn.com) offers horseback and stagecoach rides April through October, for $16 per hour per person. The company also rents six cabins (full bathroom, refrigerator, air-conditioning, and an outside barbecue grill for cooking) for $65 per night for up to four people; and operates a small store with camping supplies, food items, and the like.

WILDLIFE WATCHING Jackrabbits and chukar partridges are probably the most commonly seen wildlife in the park, although you'll also hear the piñon jay and might see an occasional coyote or rattlesnake.

CAMPING

The park's attractive 27-site campground has flush toilets, showers, drinking water, picnic tables, barbecue grills, and an RV dump station, but no RV hookups. Campsites cost $14 per night. Call ✆ **800/322-3770** or 801/322-3770 or visit www.stateparks.utah.gov for reservations; a $7 nonrefundable reservation fee will be charged (regardless of the number of nights).

10 Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument & the Highway 12 Scenic Drive

Even if it didn't have a beautiful national park at each end—Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef—the Highway 12 Scenic Byway, which passes by and through Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, would be well worth the drive. Here you'll find richly varied scenery: red-rock spires and canyons, dense forests of tall evergreens, pastoral meadows, colorful slickrock, and plunging waterfalls. Whether you're just passing through, pausing briefly at scenic viewpoints along the way, or stopping to explore this huge national monument, you'll have plenty to see. Those driving between Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef national parks should allow at least 4 hours for the trip, but we suggest you stop in the small community of Escalante (see "Basing Yourself in Escalante," later in this chapter), visit its fine state park, and investigate the wild areas in the Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument and other nearby public lands.

GRAND STAIRCASE–ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Known for its stark, rugged beauty, this vast land contains a unique combination of geological, biological, paleontological, archaeological, and historical resources. The area's 1.9 million acres of red-orange canyons, mesas, plateaus, and river valleys became a national monument by presidential proclamation in 1996.

In announcing the creation of the monument, former President Bill Clinton proclaimed, "This high, rugged, and remote region was the last place in the continental United States to be mapped; even today, this unspoiled natural area remains a frontier, a quality that greatly enhances the monument's value for scientific study." Although hailed by environmentalists, the president's action was not popular in Utah, largely because the area contains a great deal of coal and other resources. Utah Senator Orrin Hatch denounced Clinton's decree, calling it "the mother of all land-grabs."

Under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, the monument is expected to remain open for grazing and possible oil and gas drilling under existing leases (although no new leases will be issued), as well as for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and other forms of recreation.

Unlike most other national monuments, almost all of this vast area is undeveloped—there are few all-weather roads, only one maintained hiking trail, and two developed campgrounds. But the adventurous will find miles upon miles of dirt roads and practically unlimited opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking on existing dirt roads, and camping.

The national monument can be divided into three distinct sections: the **Grand Staircase** of sandstone cliffs, which includes five life zones from Sonoran Desert to coniferous forests, in the southwest; the **Kaiparowits Plateau,** a vast, wild region of rugged mesas and steep canyons in the center; and the **Escalante River Canyons** section, along the northern edge of the monument, which is a delightfully scenic area containing miles of interconnecting river canyons.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE The national monument takes in a large section of southern Utah—covering an area almost as big as the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined—with Bryce Canyon National Park to the west, Capitol Reef National Park on its northwest edge, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area along the east and part of the south sides.

Access is via Utah 12 along the monument's northwest edge, from Kodachrome Basin State Park and the communities of Escalante and Boulder; and via U.S. 89 to the southern section of the monument, east of the town of Kanab.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTERS The national monument remains a very rugged area, with limited facilities, poor roads, and changeable weather. We strongly suggest that before setting out all visitors contact one of the visitor centers to get maps and other information, and especially to check on current road and weather conditions.

These include the **Escalante Interagency Visitor Center,** on the west side of Escalante at 755 W. Main St. (Utah 12; P.O. Box 225), Escalante, UT 84726 (✆ **435/826-5499**), open daily 7:30am to 5:30pm from late March through October, with shorter hours in winter; and the Bureau of Land Management's **Kanab Visitor Center,** 745 E. U.S. 89, Kanab, UT 84741 (✆ **435/644-4680;** www.ut.blm.gov/monument), open daily 8am to 5pm from late March to mid-November, with reduced hours at other times.

There are also visitor centers in Cannonville (✆ **435/679-8981**), east of Bryce Canyon National Park, and in Big Water (✆ **435/675-3200**), along U.S. 89 near the southern edge of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (call for current hours).

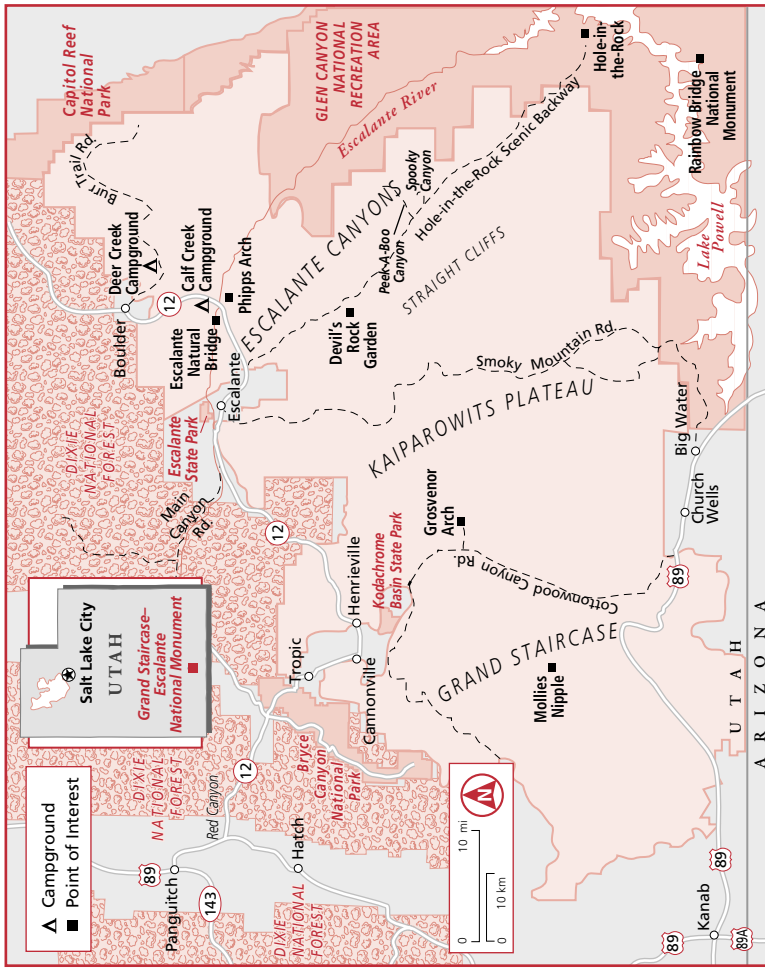
FEES, REGULATIONS & SAFETY There is no charge to enter the monument; those planning overnight trips into the backcountry should obtain free permits at either of the offices listed above. Regulations are similar to those on other public lands; damaging or disturbing archaeological and historic sites in any way is forbidden.

Water is the main safety concern here, whether there's too little or too much. This is generally very dry country, so those going into the monument should carry plenty of drinking water. However, thunderstorms can turn the monument's dirt roads into impassable mud bogs in minutes, stranding motorists; and potentially fatal flash floods through narrow canyons can catch hikers by surprise. Anyone planning trips

Impressions

On this remarkable site, God's handiwork is everywhere.

—Former President Bill Clinton, September 18, 1996



into the monument should check first with one of the offices listed above for current and anticipated weather and travel conditions.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

This rugged national monument offers many opportunities for outdoor adventures, including **canyoneering** through narrow slot canyons, with the aid of ropes. You can get information on the best areas for canyoneering at the monument's visitor centers, but we cannot emphasize too strongly that this is not the place for beginners. To put it bluntly, people die here and you don't want to be one of them.

We recommend that unless you are an expert at this specialized sport you go with an expert, such as Rick Green, owner of **Excursions of Escalante,** 125 E. Main St. (P.O. Box 605), Escalante, UT 84726 (✆ **800/839-7567** or 435/826-4714; www.excursions-escalante.com). Trips, which are available year-round, usually include four people with

one guide, and all equipment is provided. In addition to canyoneering trips, the company offers day hiking and backpacking excursions, plus specialized tours. Hiking trips cost $95 per person per day, canyoneering costs $125 per person per day, and backpacking costs $200 per person per day.

HIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING & HORSEBACK RIDING Located about 15 miles northeast of Escalante via Utah 12, the **Calf Creek Recreation Area** has a campground (p. 251), a picnic area with fire grates and tables, trees, drinking water, and flush toilets. The tree-shaded picnic and camping area lies along the creek at the bottom of a high-walled, rather narrow rock canyon. The best part of the recreation area, though, is the moderately strenuous 5.5-mile round-trip hike to **Lower Calf Creek Falls.** A sandy trail leads along **Calf Creek,** past beaver ponds and wetlands, to a beautiful waterfall that cascades 126 feet down a rock wall into a tree-shaded pool. You can pick up an interpretive brochure at the trail head.

Although the Calf Creek Trail is the monument's only officially marked and maintained trail, numerous unmarked cross-country routes are ideal for hiking, mountain biking (on existing dirt roads only), and horseback riding. We strongly recommend that hikers stop at one of the visitor centers (p. 248) to get recommendations on hiking routes and to purchase topographic maps. Hikers need to remember that this is wild country and can be hazardous. Rangers recommend carrying at least 1 gallon of water per person per day, and say that all water from streams should be treated before drinking. The potential for flooding is high, and hikers should check with the BLM before attempting to hike through the monument's narrow slot canyons, which offer no escape during flash floods. Other hazards include poisonous snakes and scorpions and, in the wetter areas, poison ivy. Slickrock, as the name suggests, is slippery, so hikers should wear sturdy hiking boots with traction soles.

Among the popular and relatively easy-to-follow hiking routes is the footpath to **Escalante Natural Bridge;** it repeatedly crosses the river, so be prepared to get wet up to your knees. The easy 2-mile (one-way) hike begins at a parking area at the bridge that crosses the Escalante River near Calf Creek Recreation Area, 15 miles northeast of the town of Escalante. From the parking area, hike upstream to Escalante Natural Bridge, on the south side of the river. The bridge is 130 feet high and spans 100 feet.

Also starting at the Utah 12 bridge parking area is a hike downstream to **Phipps Wash.** Mostly moderate, this hike goes about 1.5 miles to the mouth of Phipps Wash, which enters the river from the west. You'll find Maverick Natural Bridge in a north side drainage of Phipps Wash, and climbing up the drainage on the south side leads to Phipps Arch.

Hiking the national monument's **slot canyons** is very popular, but we can't overemphasize the importance of checking on flood potentials before starting out. A sudden rainstorm miles away can cause a flash flood through one of the monument's narrow canyons, trapping hikers.

One challenging and very strenuous slot-canyon hike is through **Peek-a-boo** and **Spooky canyons,** which are accessible from the Hole-in-the-Rock Scenic Backway (see "Sightseeing & Four-Wheeling," below). Stop at the Escalante Interagency Office for precise directions.

SIGHTSEEING & FOUR-WHEELING Because this is one of America's least-developed large sections of public land, it offers a wonderful opportunity for exploration by the adventurous. Be aware, though, that the dirt roads inside the monument turn muddy—and impassable—when it rains.

One particularly popular road is the **Hole-in-the-Rock Scenic Backway,** which is partly in the national monument and partly in the adjacent Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Like most roads in the monument, this should be attempted in dry weather only. Starting about 5 miles northeast of Escalante off Utah 12, this clearly marked dirt road travels 57 miles (one-way) to the Hole-in-the-Rock, where Mormon settlers, in 1880, cut a passage through solid rock to get their wagons down a 1,200-foot cliff to the canyon floor and Colorado River below.

About 12 miles in, the road passes by the sign to **Devil's Rock Garden,** an area of classic red-rock formations and arches, where you'll also find a picnic area (about a mile off the main road). The road continues across a plateau of typical desert terrain, ending at a spectacular scenic overlook of Lake Powell. The first 35 miles of the scenic byway are relatively easy (in dry weather); it then gets a bit steeper and sandier, and the last 6 miles of the road require a high-clearance 4×4 vehicle. Allow about 6 hours round-trip and make sure you have plenty of fuel and water.

Another recommended drive in the national monument is the **Cottonwood Canyon Road,** which runs from Kodachrome Basin State Park south to U.S. 89, along the monument's southern edge, a distance of about 46 miles. The road is sandy and narrow, and washboard in places, but usually passable for passenger cars in dry weather. It mostly follows Cottonwood Wash, with good views of red-rock formations and distant panoramas from hilltops. About 10 miles east of Kodachrome Basin State Park, you'll find a short side road to **Grosvenor Arch.** This magnificent stone arch, with an opening 99 feet wide, was named for National Geographic Society founder and editor Gilbert H. Grosvenor, and is well worth the trip. Incidentally, a professional photographer friend of ours complained bitterly about the power lines that parallel the road, making scenic photography difficult. However, the BLM tells us that the road wouldn't exist at all if it weren't for those power lines.

WILDLIFE VIEWING & BIRDING The isolated and rugged terrain here makes a good habitat for a number of species, including desert bighorn sheep and mountain lions. More than 200 species of birds have been seen, including bald eagles, golden eagles, Swainson's hawks, and peregrine falcons. The best areas for seeing wildlife are along the Escalante and Paria rivers and Johnson Creek.

CAMPING

Backcountry camping is permitted in most areas of the monument with a free permit, available at the Interagency Office in Escalante and BLM office in Kanab (p. 248).

There are also two designated campgrounds. **Calf Creek Campground,** in the Calf Creek Recreation Area about 15 miles northeast of the town of Escalante via Utah 12, has 13 sites and a picnic area. Open year-round, the tree-shaded campground is situated in a scenic, steep canyon along Calf Creek, surrounded by high rock walls. Facilities include a volleyball court, an interpretive hiking trail (p. 250), flush toilets, and drinking water, but no showers, RV hookups, RV dump stations, or trash removal. In summer, the campground is often full by 10am. From November through March, water is turned off and only vault toilets are available. Vehicles must ford a shallow creek, and the campground is not recommended for vehicles over 25 feet long. Campsites cost $7 per night; day use is $2 per vehicle.

The national monument's other designated campground is **Deer Creek,** located 6 miles east of the town of Boulder along the scenic Burr Trail Road. Camping at the four primitive sites here costs $4; no drinking water or other facilities are available. RVs and cars can fit onto the sites here.

Rock or Wood—What Is This Stuff?

It looks like a weathered, multicolored tree limb, shining and sparkling in the light—but it's heavy, hard, and solid as a rock. Just what is this stuff? Why, it's petrified wood.

Back in the old days—some 135 to 155 million years ago—southern Utah was not at all like we see it today. It was closer to the Equator than it is now, which made it a wet and hot land, with lots of ferns, palm trees, and conifers providing lunch for the neighborhood dinosaurs.

Occasionally, floods would uproot the trees, dumping them in flood plains and along sandbars, then burying them with mud and silt. If this happened quickly, the layers of mud and silt would cut off the oxygen supply, halting the process of decomposition—and effectively preserving the tree trunks intact.

Later, volcanic ash covered the area, and groundwater rich in silicon dioxide and other chemicals and minerals made its way down to the ancient trees. With the silicon dioxide acting as a glue, the cells of the wood mineralized. Other waterborne minerals produced the colors: Iron painted the tree trunks in reds, browns, and yellows; manganese produced purples and blues.

Sometime afterward, uplift from within the earth, along with various forms of erosion, brought the now-petrified wood to the surface in places like Utah's Escalante State Park and Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, breaking it into the shapes we see today in the process—one that's taken only a hundred million years or so to complete.

ESCALANTE STATE PARK

Large chunks of colorful petrified wood decorate this unique park, which offers hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and panoramic vistas of the surrounding countryside. There's wildlife to watch, trails to hike, and a 30-acre reservoir for boating, fishing, and somewhat chilly swimming. It's open all year, but spring through fall are the best times to visit. Hikers should be prepared for hot summer temperatures and carry plenty of water.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE The park is 48 miles from Bryce Canyon. It's located about 2 miles southwest of Escalante on Utah 12 at Wide Hollow Road.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER Contact **Escalante State Park,** 710 N. Reservoir Rd., Escalante, UT 84726-0350 (✆ **435/826-4466;** www.stateparks.utah.gov). The **visitor center,** open daily, displays petrified wood, dinosaur bones, and fossils, plus an exhibit explaining how petrified wood is formed.

FEES & REGULATIONS Entry costs $5 per vehicle. As at most parks, regulations are generally based on common sense and courtesy: Don't damage anything, drive slowly on park roads, and observe quiet hours between 10pm and 7am. In addition, you're asked to resist the temptation to carry off samples of petrified wood. Pets are welcome, even on trails, but must be on leashes no more than 6 feet long.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

FISHING & BOATING **Wide Hollow Reservoir,** located partially inside the park, has a boat ramp (sorry, no rentals are available) and is a popular fishing hole for rainbow trout and bluegill, plus ice-fishing in winter.

HIKING The 1-mile self-guided **Petrified Forest Trail** ★★ is a moderately strenuous hike among colorful rocks, through a forest of stunted juniper and piñon pine, past a painted desert, to a field of colorful petrified wood. The hike also offers panoramic vistas of the town of Escalante and the surrounding stair-step plateaus. A free brochure is available at the visitor center. Allow about 45 minutes.

An optional .75-mile loop off the main trail leads through lots more petrified wood, but is considerably steeper than the main trail.

WILDLIFE WATCHING This is one of the best spots in the region to see **wildlife** ★. The reservoir is home to ducks, geese, and coots. Chukar partridges wander throughout the park, and you're also likely to see eagles, hawks, lizards, ground squirrels, and both cottontails and jackrabbits. Binoculars are helpful.

CAMPING

The 22-unit **campground,** within easy walking distance of the park's hiking trails and reservoir, is open year-round. Facilities include hot showers, modern restrooms, and drinking water, but no RV hookups. Camping is $14. Reservations are available at ✆ **800/322-3770** or www.stateparks.utah.gov; a $7 nonrefundable booking fee is charged.

BASING YOURSELF IN ESCALANTE

Originally called Potato Valley, this community's name was changed in the 19th century to honor Spanish explorer and missionary Father Silvestre Velez de Escalante. However, it's believed Escalante never actually visited this particular part of southern Utah on his trek from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to California a hundred years earlier. Home to nearly 100 historic buildings (a free walking-tour map is available at the information booth and at local businesses), Escalante is your best bet for lodging, food, and supplies as you travel Utah 12. At 5,868 feet elevation, it's also a good base for exploring the nearby mountains and Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, or for finally taking a hot shower after a week of backpacking. Be aware, though, that services in this town of 800 are limited in winter.

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE Escalante is 50 miles east of Bryce Canyon National Park and 63 miles south of Capitol Reef National Park on the Highway 12 Scenic Byway. Utah 12 becomes Main Street as it goes through town.

VISITOR INFORMATION The National Park Service, Dixie National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management operate the **Escalante Interagency Visitor Center,** that provides recreation and other tourist information year-round. It's located on the west side of Escalante at 755 W. Main St. (Utah 12; P.O. Box 225), Escalante, UT 84726 (✆ **435/826-5499**), and open daily 7:30am to 5:30pm from late March through October, with shorter hours in winter.

The **Escalante Chamber of Commerce,** P.O. Box 175, Escalante, UT 84726 (✆ **435/826-4810;** www.escalante-cc.com), can also provide area information.

Tips A Fascinating Gallery/Shop

Philip and Harriet Priska's **Serenidad Gallery,** 360 W. Main St. (✆ **888/826-4577** or 435/826-4720; www.escalanteretreat.com), offers seven rooms crammed with wild and wonderfully fun stuff. Browse among local fine art, antiques, collectibles, gift items, jewelry, and even locally handmade soaps, face creams, and lip balms. Harriet's huge collection of buttons includes her own hand-painted porcelain creations. The Priskas carry only things they particularly like, so it's especially fun to talk with them about the selection of items. The gallery/shop is open daily, from 8am to 8pm in summer and 9am to 5pm in winter.

ACTIVITIES

Excursions of Escalante (p. 249) offers guided day and overnight trips in Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument and the nearby national forest. If you discover that you don't have everything you need for your forays into this extremely rugged land, we heartily recommend that you stop at **Escalante Outfitters,** 310 W. Main St. (Utah 12), Escalante (✆ **435/826-4266;** www.escalanteoutfitters.com), which has an excellent stock of outdoor clothing and gear.

But the great outdoors isn't the only reason to visit Escalante. Art lovers should schedule their visits for early October, when Escalante and nearby communities join to sponsor the **Everett Ruess Days Working Arts Festival,** with demonstrations, workshops, contests, exhibits, talks, music, and more. Subjects range from painting to pottery, plus quilting, ceramics, tie-dying, cowboy poetry—you name it.

The festival is named for Everett Ruess, a young artist who disappeared in the rugged canyon country near here in November 1934, and was never seen again. For additional information on the festival, stop at **Escalante Outfitters** or **Serenidad Gallery,** both discussed below, contact the chamber of commerce (see above), or check out the festival website, **www.everettruessdays.org**.

WHERE TO STAY

Room tax adds 11% in the town and 10% outside town limits. Pets are not accepted unless otherwise noted.

In addition to the choices listed below, several houses are available for nightly rental. Contact **Escalante Outfitters,** 310 W. Main St. (Utah 12; P.O. Box 570), Escalante, UT 84726 (✆ **866/455-0041** or 435/826-4266; www.escalanteoutfitters.com), for details on the restored 1890 pioneer home, fully furnished including TV and VCR/DVD, that sleeps up to eight. Nightly charge is $130 double plus $15 for each extra person.

For additional house rentals, contact the chamber of commerce (see above).

Circle D Motel You'll find clean, well-maintained basic lodging at this family-owned and -operated motel. Rooms are simply decorated and furnished, with two double beds, one or two queen-size beds, or a king-size. About half the rooms have refrigerators and microwaves. There's no swimming pool, but at these rates, who can complain? Smoking is not permitted.

475 W. Main St. (Utah 12), P.O. Box 44, Escalante, UT 84726. ✆ **435/826-4297.** Fax 435/826-4402. www.utahcanyons.com/circled.htm. 30 units. $35–$70 per unit. AE, MC, V. Pets accepted with $5 fee per pet per night. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge (some), hair dryer, microwave (some).

Escalante Outfitters These cute little log cabins are a favorite of backpackers who want a break from sleeping on the ground. Think of this place as a cross between a motel and a campground; actually, it's closer to the auto camps of the 1930s. Built in the mid-1990s, each cabin has either one double bed or a pair of bunk beds, a chair, a small table with a lamp, and two small windows. There's heat in cool weather and fans for warm weather. That's it. No private bathrooms are available; guests share a simple but adequate, well-maintained bathhouse. On the grounds are barbecue pits, picnic tables, and horseshoe pits. There is also a camping area for 10 tents. A pay phone is nearby, and there's a state liquor store on the premises.

310 W. Main St. (Utah 12), P.O. Box 575, Escalante, UT 84726. ✆ **866/455-0041** or 435/826-4266. www.escalante outfitters.com. 7 units. $45 double. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see Esca-Latte Coffee Shop & Pizza Parlor, in "Where to Dine," below). *In room:* Wireless Internet, no phone.

Escalante's Grand Staircase Bed & Breakfast Inn This beautiful B&B has spacious rooms with skylights, full private bathrooms with tub/shower combos, and beds with pillowtop mattresses. The modern country decor includes aspen or lodgepole pine furniture, Southwestern drum tables, and pictograph designs on the walls. The full gourmet breakfast consists of a fruit dish, juice, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate, and a main course including breakfast meats or breads. Special diets can be accommodated with advance notice. All units are nonsmoking.

280 W. Main St. (Utah 12), Escalante, UT 84726. ✆ **866/826-4890** or 435/826-4890. Fax 435/826-4889. www. escalantebnb.com. 8 units. Mid-Mar to Oct from $115 double; Nov–Feb from $100 double. DISC, MC, V. Children under 10 accepted with prior notice. **Amenities:** Jacuzzi. *In room:* A/C, TV, coffeemaker.

WHERE TO DINE

Pizza lovers should stop at the **Esca-Latte Coffee Shop & Pizza Parlor,** located in Escalante Outfitters, 310 W. Main St. (✆ **866/455-0041** or 435/826-4266; www. escalanteoutfitters.com). This is the place for true aficionados, where you can build your own 12- or 16-inch pizza by selecting up to a dozen toppings, ranging from pepperoni to pineapple. There's also a salad bar, a variety of hot and cold coffee drinks, and both draft and bottled beer, including proprietor Steve Robert's own microbrewed Everett Ruess Vagabond Pale Ale. Most main courses cost from $6.95 to $11. The restaurant is open daily from 8am to 10pm in summer, with shorter hours in spring and fall, and closed from November through February.

For Mexican dishes, deli sandwiches, salads, and great desserts, head to **Georgie's Corner Cafe & Deli,** 190 W. Main St. (✆ **435/826-4784**), located in an historic house that dates to 1905. This popular lunch and dinner spot has a limited daily menu, but lots of specials, so be sure to ask what Georgie's cooking up today. Especially popular are the nachos—not just an appetizer but a full meal with meat, cheese, and veggies—and the veggie sandwich, which includes generous portions of mushrooms, red peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, avocados, onions, and alfalfa sprouts. You'll also find turkey and ham sandwiches, tostadas, and quesadillas. Pies and cheesecakes are all homemade—be sure to ask for the fresh raspberry pie—and we also recommend the chocolate milkshakes. Summer hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11am to 8pm, with shorter hours the rest of the year, and prices for most items are $6.50 to $7.95 (desserts are in the $3–$4 range). No alcohol is served.

You'll get excellent regional cuisine, prepared from organic ingredients, at the upscale **Hell's Backbone Grill** (✆ **435/335-7464;** www.hellsbackbonegrill.com), about 28 miles northeast of Escalante in the community of Boulder, 20 N. Utah 12. They're open 7 to 11:30am and 5:30 to 9:30pm daily from mid-March through October;

closed the rest of the year. The menu changes seasonally, but for dinner you're likely to be offered a porterhouse pork chop with apple-green chile chutney, chipotle meatloaf with creamed Swiss chard and lemony mashed potatoes, or a beef burger with caramelized onions and jack cheese. Try to leave room for one of their yummy desserts: Navajo style peach crisp with piñon nuts or chocolate chile flourless torte. Breakfast items include eggs, French toast, quiche, and various breakfast meats. Dinner mains are priced from $12 to $22, while breakfast items cost $5 to $8.

NORTH FROM ESCALANTE ALONG SCENIC UTAH 12

Heading toward Capitol Reef National Park from the town of Escalante, you'll see rugged mountain scenery, with forests of pine and fir producing a deep green contrast to the rosy red, orange, and brown hues of the region's rock formations.

Picturesque **Posy Lake** (sometimes spelled Posey), under the jurisdiction of the **U.S. Forest Service** (✆ **435/826-5499;** www.fs.fed.us/dxnf), is located in a mixed conifer forest at 8,200 feet elevation, some 16 miles northwest of Escalante via Utah 12 and gravel Forest Road 153. The lake is open to nonmotorized boats only. The fishing's good—the lake is stocked with rainbow trout—and you'll also find a picnic area, two floating docks, and a boat ramp. The numerous dirt roads are popular with mountain bikers and hikers in summer, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers in winter. The **Posy Lake Campground,** open in summer only, has 22 sites, drinking water, and restrooms, but no showers, RV hookups, or trash pickup. Camping costs $8 per night.

Visitors to **Anasazi State Park Museum,** in the village of Boulder (about 28 miles northeast of Escalante along Utah 12), step back to the 12th century A.D., when the Kayenta Anasazi (also called Ancestral Puebloans) lived here in one of the largest communities west of the Colorado River. The 6-acre park includes the ruins of the village, a full-size six-room replica of a home, a gift shop, a picnic area, a 30-seat auditorium, and a museum. The museum is open daily from 8am to 6pm; admission costs $2 per person or $5 per car. There is no campground. For more information, contact **Anasazi State Park Museum,** P.O. Box 1429, Boulder, UT 84716 (✆ **435/335-7308;** www.stateparks.utah.gov).

Boulder Mountain ★★ has some of the most dramatic views along Utah 12—you'll be practically in the clouds, at an elevation of 9,670 feet, atop this mountain, situated northeast of Escalante. From viewpoints such as **Point Lookout,** you'll gaze out over the colorful sandstone rock cliffs of Capitol Reef National Park to the imposing Henry Mountains, Navajo Mountain, and sights more than 100 miles away.

Those venturing into the backcountry by foot, four-wheel-drive, mountain bike, or horse will discover rugged, remote beauty; the area is also a trout fisherman's paradise, with dozens of secluded mountain lakes and streams hidden among the tall pines and firs. Don't be surprised to see mule deer, elk, and wild turkey in the open meadows.

Several beautiful and quiet campgrounds, with both RV and tent sites, are operated by the **U.S. Forest Service** (✆ **435/826-5499;** www.fs.fed.us/dxnf). One of them, Single Tree Campground, is about 16 miles south of Torrey (see "Camping" in chapter 13). The **Wildcat Ranger Station** of the Dixie National Forest has an information center about 18 miles south of Torrey, open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

After Boulder, it's not too much farther to Capitol Reef National Park, but first you'll reach the community of Torrey, where Utah 12 intersects with Utah 24. You can turn right here and proceed to the park. See chapter 13 for complete coverage of Capitol Reef.

13

Capitol Reef National Park

We're reluctant to write this chapter. **Capitol Reef National Park** ★★★ is one of those little-known gems, drawing far fewer visitors than its more famous neighbors, Bryce Canyon and Zion, and to be honest, we'd like to be selfish and keep this jewel of a park to ourselves.

Alas, we can't. For one thing, Capitol Reef is a place you really ought to know about. For another, the secret's already getting out. Not long ago, *Outside* magazine sang the praises of Capitol Reef as one of America's eight under-visited national parks—"parks as they were meant to be."

WHAT MAKES CAPITOL REEF SO SPECIAL?

Capitol Reef National Park offers loads of that spectacular southern Utah scenery, but with a unique twist and a personality all its own. The area's geologic formations are downright peculiar; this is a place to let your imagination run wild. You'll see the appropriately named Hamburger Rocks, sitting atop a white sandstone table; the tall, rust-red Chimney Rock; the silent and eerie Temple of the Moon; and the commanding Castle. The colors of Capitol Reef's canyon walls draw from a spectacular palette, which is why some Navajos called the area "The Land of the Sleeping Rainbow."

But unlike some of southern Utah's other parks, Capitol Reef is more than just brilliant rocks and barren desert. The Fremont River has helped create a lush oasis in an otherwise unforgiving land, with cottonwoods and willows along its banks. In fact, 19th-century pioneers found the land so inviting and the soil so fertile that they established the community of Fruita, planting orchards that have been preserved by the Park Service.

Because of differences in geologic strata, elevation, and availability of water in various sections of the park, you'll find an assortment of ecosystems and terrain, as well as a variety of activities. There are hiking trails, mountain-biking trails, and four-wheel-drive touring roads; a lush fruit orchard; desert wildflowers and rich, green forests; an abundance of songbirds; and a surprising amount of wildlife—from lizards and snakes to the bashful ringtail cat (which isn't a cat at all, but a member of the raccoon family). You'll see thousand-year-old petroglyphs, left behind by the early Fremont and Ancestral Puebloan (also called Anasazi) peoples, and other traces of the past from the more recent Utes and Southern Paiutes, Wild West outlaws, and industrious Mormon pioneers (in the one-room Fruita Schoolhouse, their children learned the three R's and studied the Bible and Book of Mormon).

The name Capitol Reef, which conjures up an image of a tropical shoreline, seems odd for a park composed of cliffs and canyons and situated in landlocked Utah. But many of the pioneers who settled the West were former seafaring men, and they extended the traditional meaning of the word "reef" to include these seemingly impassable rock barriers. The huge round white domes of sandstone reminded them of the domes of capitol buildings, and so this area became known as Capitol Reef.

A more accurate name for the park might be "The Big Fold." When the earth's crust uplifted some 60 million years ago, creating the Rocky Mountains and the Colorado Plateau, most of the uplifting was relatively even. But here, through one of those fascinating quirks of nature, the crust wrinkled into a huge fold. Running for 100 miles, almost all within the national park, it's known as the Waterpocket Fold.

1 Just the Facts

GETTING THERE Capitol Reef National Park is 120 miles northeast of Bryce Canyon National Park, 204 miles northeast of Zion National Park, 224 miles south of Salt Lake City, and 366 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The park straddles Utah 24, which connects with I-70 both to the northeast and northwest.

Those coming from Bryce Canyon National Park can follow Utah 12 northeast (see chapter 12) to its intersection with Utah 24, and follow that east into Capitol Reef. If you're approaching the park from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the Four Corners region, follow Utah 276 and/or Utah 95 north to the intersection with Utah 24, where you'll then go west into the park.

The closest major airport is Walker Field, about 200 miles east in Grand Junction, Colorado (✆ **970/244-9100;** fax 970/241-9103; www.walkerfield.com), which has direct flights and connections from most major cities on America West Express, Delta/Skywest, Frontier, Great Lakes, and United Express. Car rentals are available at the Grand Junction airport or in Grand Junction from Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National, and Thrifty. Toll-free reservations numbers are provided in chapter 2.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER For advance information, contact **Capitol Reef National Park,** HC 70 Box 15, Torrey, UT 84775-9602 (✆ **435/425-3791;** www.nps.gov.care).

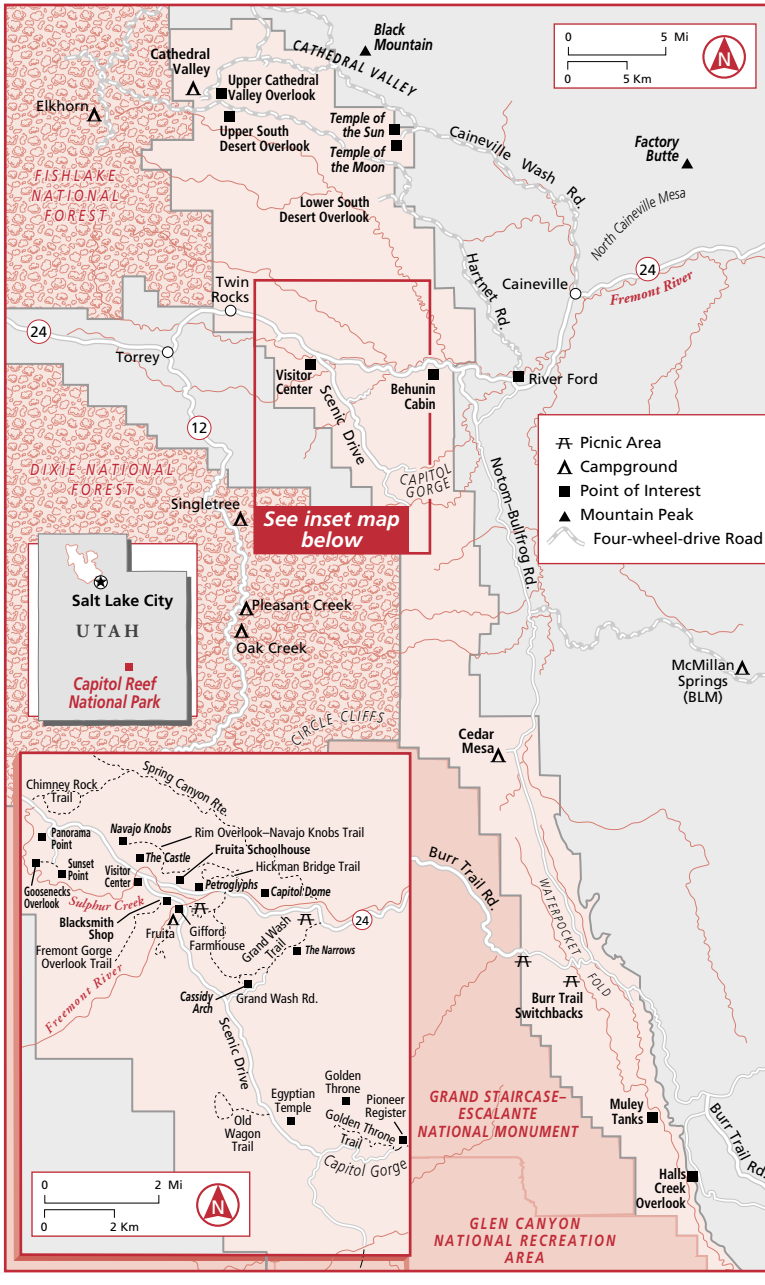
The **visitor center** is located on the park access road at its intersection with Utah 24. A path alongside the access road connects the visitor center with the campground, passing the historic Fruita blacksmith shop, the orchards, and a lovely shaded picnic ground. The visitor center, open daily from 8am to 4:30pm (extended hours in summer) year-round, has exhibits on the area's geology and history as well as a 10-minute introductory slide show on the park. You can ask the rangers questions, get backcountry permits, pick up free brochures, and purchase books, maps, videos, postcards, and posters.

Books and maps are available from the nonprofit **Capitol Reef Natural History Association,** Capitol Reef National Park, HC 70, Box 15, Torrey, UT 84775 (✆ **435/425-3791,** ext. 106; www.capitolreefnha.org).

FEES, REGULATIONS & BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS Entry into the park (for up to 7 days) costs $5 per vehicle. Free permits, available at the visitor center, are required for all overnight hiking trips into the backcountry.

Bicycles are prohibited in the backcountry and on all hiking trails. Feeding or otherwise disturbing wildlife is forbidden, as is vandalizing or upsetting any natural, cultural, or historic feature of the park. Because park wildlife refuse to follow park rules regarding wildlife diet, campers should be especially careful of where they store food, and should dispose of garbage promptly. Dogs, which must be leashed at all times, are prohibited on all trails, more than 100 feet from any road, and in public buildings.

Capitol Reef National Park



SEASONS/AVOIDING THE CROWDS Although Capitol Reef receives only about 550,000 visitors annually—making it among the least-visited national parks in the West—it can still be busy, especially during its peak summer season. For this reason, the best time to visit is fall, particularly October and November, when temperatures remain warm enough for comfortable hiking and camping, but are not so hot that they'll send you constantly in search of shade. You also don't have to be as cautious about flash floods through the narrow canyons as you do during the July-through-September thunderstorm season.

SAFETY Although most visitors to the park enjoy a wonderful vacation without mishaps, problems can occur. Hikers should carry plenty of water, especially in summer, and watch out for rattlesnakes. Although not abundant, the Western rattlesnake has been seen in the rocks of the Grand Wash and around Fruita. Snakes prefer to avoid people, but will strike if cornered.

Afternoon thunderstorms in July, August, and September can bring flash floods, which fill narrow canyons without warning. Steep-walled Grand Wash can be particularly hazardous—avoid it whenever storms are threatening.

RANGER PROGRAMS Rangers present a variety of free programs and activities from spring through fall. Campfire programs take place most evenings at the outdoor amphitheater next to Fruita Campground. Topics vary, but could include animals and plants, geology, and human history in and of the area. Rangers also lead hikes and walks and give short talks on history at the pioneer Fruita Schoolhouse and the Mormon homestead. Schedules are posted on bulletin boards at the visitor center and campground.

Kids can become Junior Rangers or Junior Geologists—they'll learn to map ancient earthquakes, inspect water bugs, and so on. The entire family can join in, too: Just pick up a Family Fun Pack at the visitor center.

2 Seeing the Highlights by Car

As with most national parks, it would be easy to spend a week or more here, hiking the trails, admiring the views, and loafing about the campground. However, those with a limited amount of time, and those who prefer the comfort of a car to the demands of the hiking trail, will still find Capitol Reef relatively easy to explore.

Start at the **visitor center,** where you can watch the short slide show explaining the park's geology and early history. From the center, the paved 25-mile round-trip **Scenic Drive** leads south into the park, offering good views of the dramatic canyons and rock formations that comprise Capitol Reef. Pick up a copy of the free Scenic Drive brochure at the entrance station and set out, stopping at viewpoints to gaze up and out at the array of colorful cliffs, monoliths, and commanding rock formations.

If the weather's dry, drive down the gravel **Capitol Gorge Road** (5 miles round-trip) at the end of the paved Scenic Drive for a look at what many consider the best backcountry scenery in the park. If you're up for a short walk, the relatively flat 2-mile (round-trip) **Capitol Gorge Trail,** which starts at the end of Capitol Gorge Road, takes you to the historic **Pioneer Register,** a rock wall where traveling pioneers "signed in" (p. 263).

Another dry-weather driving option is the **Grand Wash Road,** a maintained dirt road that's subject to flash floods, but in good weather offers an easy route into spectacular backcountry. Along the 2-mile round-trip, you'll see **Cassidy Arch;** famed outlaw Butch Cassidy is said to have hidden out nearby.

Butch Cassidy: Utah's Most Infamous Son

Robert LeRoy Parker wasn't a bad kid. He was born into a hard-working Mormon family in a little southwestern Utah town called Beaver on April 13, 1866. Robert was the oldest of 13 children, and was said to be a great help to his mother, working on the small ranch his parents bought in nearby Circleville.

But Circleville was where the problems began. Teenage Robert fell in with some rather unsavory characters, including one Mike Cassidy, the ne'er-do-well role model who gave the youth his first gun, and presumably from whom young Robert took the alias Cassidy. The boy made his way to Telluride, Colorado, worked for one of the mines there for a while, and then wandered up to Wyoming. A little more wandering took him back to Telluride—and, strangely enough, the Telluride bank was robbed. Butch Cassidy had officially begun his life of crime.

In the following years, Butch—who gained the nickname after a short stint working in a butcher shop—became an expert at rustling cattle, robbing banks, and, his ultimate glory, robbing trains. Butch wanted to call his gang the Train Robbers Syndicate, but they raised such hell in celebration of their economic successes that saloonkeepers in Vernal and other Utah towns began calling them "that wild bunch," and the name stuck. The Wild Bunch would travel through Utah, hiding out in the desolate badlands that were to become Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, and Canyonlands national parks. Capitol Reef's Cassidy Arch was named after Butch; this area was supposedly one of his favorite hiding places.

If you've seen the 1969 movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,* with Paul Newman as Butch and Robert Redford as his partner-in-crime Sundance, you can't forget that spectacular scene in which Butch and his cohorts blow the door off a railroad car. Then they use way too much dynamite to open the safe, sending bills flying into the air. Apparently, the story is basically true, having taken place on June 2, 1899, near Wilcox, Wyoming. According to reports of the day, they got away with $30,000.

The Union Pacific Railroad took exception to Butch's antics. When the posses started getting a bit too close, Butch, Sundance, and Sundance's lady friend, Etta Place (Katharine Ross in the film), took off for South America, where it's said they continued a life of crime for a half-dozen or so years. There are also some stories—unconfirmed—that it was in South America that Butch first killed anyone, that up until that time he had avoided bloodshed whenever possible.

According to some historians (as well as the movie version of Butch's life), Butch and Sundance were shot dead in a gun battle with army troops in Bolivia. But others say it's not so—that Butch returned to the United States, visited friends and family in Utah and Wyoming, and eventually settled in Spokane, Washington, where he lived a peaceful and respectable life under the name William T. Phillips, until he died of natural causes in 1937.

Utah 24, which crosses Capitol Reef from east to west, also has several viewpoints offering a good look at the park's features, such as monumental **Capitol Dome,** which resembles the dome of a capitol building; the aptly named **Castle** formation; the historic **Fruita Schoolhouse;** and some roadside **petroglyphs** left by the prehistoric Fremont people (below).

3 From Petroglyphs to a Pioneer Schoolhouse: Capitol Reef's Historic Sites

In the park, you'll find evidence of man's presence here through the centuries. The **Fremont** people lived along the river as early as A.D. 700, staying until about A.D. 1300. Primarily hunters and gatherers, the Fremont also grew corn, beans, and squash to supplement their diet, and when they abandoned the area, they left little behind. They lived in pit houses, so called because they were dug into the ground—the remains of one can be seen from the **Hickman Bridge Trail.** Many of the Fremont people's petroglyphs (images carved into rock) and some pictographs (images painted on rock) are still visible on the canyon walls. If we could read them, they might even tell us why these early Americans left the area—a puzzle that continues to baffle historians and archaeologists.

Fast-forwarding to the 19th century, prospectors and other travelers passed through the **Capitol Gorge** section of the park in the late 1800s, leaving their names on a wall of rock that came to be known as the **Pioneer Register.** You can reach it via a 2-mile loop; see p. 263.

Mormon pioneers established the appropriately named community of **Fruita** when it was discovered that this was a good locale for growing fruit. The tiny 1896 **Fruita Schoolhouse** served as a church, social hall, and community-meeting hall, in addition to functioning as a one-room schoolhouse. The school closed in 1941, but it was carefully restored by the National Park Service in 1984 and is authentically furnished with old wood-and-wrought-iron desks, a woodstove, a chalkboard, and textbooks. The hand bell used to call students to class still rests on the corner of the teacher's desk. Nearby, the **orchards** planted by the Mormon settlers continue to flourish, tended by park workers who invite you to sample the "fruits" of their labors.

The historic **Gifford Farmhouse,** built in 1908, is a typical early-20th-century Utah farmhouse. Located about a mile south of the visitor center, the authentically renovated and furnished farmhouse is open daily from mid-April through September. In addition to displays of period objects, there are often demonstrations of early homemaking skills and crafts, such as quilting and rug making. Park across the road at the picnic area; a short path leads to the farmhouse.

4 Outdoor Pursuits

Among the last areas in the continental United States to be explored, many parts of Capitol Reef National Park are still practically unknown, perfect for those who want to see this rugged country in its natural state. Several local companies offer guide and shuttle services, including **Hondoo Rivers and Trails,** 90 E. Main St. (P.O. Box 98), Torrey, UT 84775 (✆ **800/332-2696** or 435/425-3519; www.hondoo.com). Founded in 1975 by Pat and Gary George, Hondoo seeks to provide comfortable and informative backcountry experiences for small groups. **Wild Hare Expeditions,** at Best Western Capitol Reef Resort, 2600 E. Utah 24 (P.O. Box 750194), Torrey, UT 84775 (✆ **888/304-HARE** or 435/425-3999; www.color-country.net/~thehare), also offers a variety of

guide services, including hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, and four-wheel-drive excursions. Their office and shop, **The Hare Lair,** sells backcountry supplies.

FOUR-WHEEL TOURING & MOUNTAIN BIKING

As in most national parks, bikes and four-wheel-drive vehicles are restricted to established roads, but Capitol Reef has several so-called roads—actually little more than dirt trails—that provide exciting opportunities for those using 4×4s or pedal-power. Use of ATVs is not permitted in the park.

The only route appropriate for road bikes is the 25-mile round-trip Scenic Drive, described earlier. However, both the Grand Wash and Capitol Gorge roads (see p. 260 for descriptions of these roads), plus three much longer dirt roads, are open to mountain bikes as well as four-wheel-drive vehicles. Note that rain can make the roads impassable, so check on current conditions with park rangers before setting out.

We recommend the **Cathedral Valley Loop** for mountain bikers and four-wheel-drivers. This road covers 60 miles on a variety of surfaces, including dirt, sand, and rock, and requires the fording of the Fremont River, where water is usually 1 to 1½ feet deep. You'll be rewarded with beautiful, unspoiled scenery, including bizarre sandstone monoliths and majestic cliffs, in one of the park's most remote areas. A small, primitive campground is located in Cathedral Valley (p. 265). Access to the loop is from Utah 24, just outside the park, 12 miles east of the visitor center at the river ford; or 19 miles east of the visitor center on the Caineville Wash Road, though it's best to begin at the river ford to be sure you can make the crossing.

Four-wheel-drive **tours** are provided by **Hondoo Rivers and Trails** (see the introduction to this section), costing $75 per person for a half-day and $90 to $120 per person for a full day. Multi-day tours to a variety of places in the area are also available. Mountain-bike and four-wheel-drive tours into the national park and surrounding areas are provided by **Wild Hare Expeditions** (see the introduction to this section). Full-day tours, including lunch, cost $80 to $125 per person, and multi-day excursions start at $125 per day. Rentals of four-wheel-drive vehicles are available from **Thousand Lakes RV Park & Campground** (p. 265) at $89 per day, including 150 miles.

HIKING

Trails through the national park offer sweeping panoramas of colorful cliffs and soaring spires, eerie journeys through desolate steep-walled canyons, and cool oases along the tree-shaded Fremont River. Watch carefully for petroglyphs and other reminders of this area's first inhabitants. This is also the real Wild West; little has changed from the way cowboys, bank robbers, settlers, and gold miners found it in the late 1800s. In fact, one of the best things about hiking here is the unique combination of scenic beauty, American Indian art, and Western history that you'll discover.

Park rangers can help you choose trails best suited to the time of year, weather conditions, and your personal physical condition; those planning serious backpacking treks will want to buy topographic maps, available at the visitor center. The summer sun is wicked, so hats and sunscreen are mandatory, and a gallon of water per person is recommended.

Among our favorite short hikes at Capitol Reef is the 2-mile round-trip **Capitol Gorge Trail.** It's easy, mostly level walking along the bottom of a narrow canyon, but looking up at the tall, smooth walls of rock conveys a strong sense of what the pioneers must have seen and felt 100 years ago, when they moved rocks and debris to haul their wagons up this canyon. Starting at the end of the dirt Capitol Gorge Road,

the hiking trail leads past the **Pioneer Register,** where prospectors and other early travelers carved their names. The earliest legible signatures were made in 1871 by J. A. Call and "Wal" Bateman.

Another short hike, but quite a bit more strenuous, is the 3.5-mile round-trip **Cassidy Arch Trail.** This route offers spectacular views as it climbs steeply from the floor of Grand Wash to high cliffs overlooking the park. From the trail, you'll get several perspectives of Cassidy Arch, a natural stone arch named for outlaw Butch Cassidy, who is believed to have occasionally used the Grand Wash as a hide-out. The trail is off the Grand Wash dirt road, which branches off the east side of the highway about halfway down the park's Scenic Drive.

Guided hikes and backpacking trips into the national park and surrounding areas are offered by **Hondoo Rivers and Trails** (p. 262). Day hikes cost about $90 per person, and overnight hiking safaris have a wide range of prices, depending on the size of the party, the itinerary, the number of days, and so on. Most groups are small, although large groups can be accommodated. **Wild Hare Expeditions** (p. 262) also offers guided day hikes and multi-day backpacking trips.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Horses are welcome on some park trails but prohibited on others; check at the visitor center. **Hondoo Rivers and Trails** (p. 262) offers a wide variety of riding trips. Options include 1- to 5-day trips into the backcountry of Capitol Reef National Park, nearby Boulder Mountain, and the canyons of Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument. Some trail rides are aimed at wildflower or wildlife viewing or fall colors. Full-day trips cost $125 per person; multi-day trips range from $1,125 to $1,775; custom tours can be arranged.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Although summer temperatures are hot and there's always the threat of a thunderstorm, this is a good season for wildlife viewing. Many species of lizards reside in the park; you'll probably catch a glimpse of one warming itself on a rock. The western whiptail, eastern fence, and side-blotched lizards are the most common, but the loveliest is the collared lizard, dark in color but with light speckles that allow it to blend easily with lava rocks and become almost invisible to its foes. Watch for deer throughout the park, especially along the path between the visitor center and Fruita Campground. This area is also where you're likely to see chipmunks and antelope ground squirrels.

If you keep your eyes to the sky, you may spot a golden eagle, and numerous songbirds pass through each year. Although they're somewhat shy and only emerge from their dens at night, the ringtail cat, a member of the raccoon family, also makes the park his home, as do the seldom-seen bobcat, cougar, fox, marmot, and coyote.

5 Camping

IN THE PARK

The 71-site **Fruita Campground,** open year-round, offers modern restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, fire grills, and an RV dump station, but no showers or RV hookups. It's located along the main park road, 1 mile south of the visitor center. Water may be turned off in winter, leaving only pit toilets. Camping costs $10; reservations are not accepted.

The park also has two primitive campgrounds, free and open year-round on a first-come, first-served basis. Both have tables, fire grills, and pit toilets, but no water.

Impressions

The colors are such as no pigments can portray. They are deep, rich, and variegated; and so luminous are they, that light seems to flow or shine out of the rock.

—Geologist C. E. Dutton, 1880

Check road conditions before going, as unpaved roads may be impassable in wet weather. **Cedar Mesa Campground,** with five sites, is located in the southern part of the park, about 23 miles down Notom-Bullfrog Road (paved for only the first 10 miles), which heads south off Utah 24 just outside the eastern entrance to the park. **Cathedral Valley Campground,** with six sites, is located in the northern part of the park. From the visitor center, head east on Utah 24 about 12 miles to the Fremont River ford, ford the river, and turn north on unpaved Hartnet Road for about 25 miles. A high-clearance or four-wheel-drive vehicle is necessary.

Backcountry camping is permitted in much of the park with a free permit, available at the visitor center. Fires are forbidden in the backcountry.

NEARBY

Sandcreek RV Park & Hostel The open, grassy area in this pleasant park affords great views in all directions, and there are numerous small but growing trees. Facilities include a large, clean bathhouse; horseshoe pits; a gift shop; an espresso bar; a dump station; and coin-op laundry. There are 24 sites and there is also a hostel on the property (p. 267), plus two attractive cabins that share the campground bathhouse ($28 double).

540 Utah 24, 5 miles west of the park entrance (P.O. Box 750276), Torrey, UT 84775. ✆ **877/425-3578** or 435/425-3577. www.sandcreekrv.com. 24 sites, 12 tent and 12 RV. $11 tent sites; $16–$18 RV sites. MC, V. Closed mid-Oct to Mar.

Single Tree Campground Located in a forest of tall pines at an elevation of 8,200 feet, this campground features paved sites that are nicely spaced. Some sites are situated in the more open center area; others are set among trees along the edge of the campground. There are also sites that can accommodate large RVs. Most popular are those sites offering distant panoramic views of the national park. Facilities include a picnic table, grill, and fire ring at each site; restrooms with flush toilets but no sinks or showers; water hydrants scattered about; an RV dump station; and a horseshoe pit and volleyball court. There are no RV hookups.

Utah 12, about 16 miles south of Torrey. Fremont River Ranger District, Fishlake National Forest, 138 S. Main St. (P.O. Box 129), Loa, UT 84747. ✆ 435/836-2800. www.fs.fed.us/r4. 26 sites plus 5 multiple-family sites. $10 "regular" sites; $20 multiple-family site. Closed Nov to mid-May.

Thousand Lakes RV Park & Campground Good views of surrounding rock formations are one of the perks of staying at this well-maintained campground, which also has some shade trees. RV sites are gravel; tent sites are grass. Facilities include the usual bathhouse, plus a gift and convenience store, a coin-op laundry, a dump station, a heated outdoor swimming pool, horseshoes, barbecues, and wireless Internet. Five of the cabins share a separate bathhouse; two have their own showers and toilet; and there's a housekeeping unit that sleeps five and has a kitchen and bath. In addition, Western dinners are offered Monday through Saturday, and 4×4 rentals are available at $75 per day.

Utah 24, 6 miles west of Capitol Reef National Park (P.O. Box 750070), Torrey, UT 84775. ✆ **800/355-8995** for reservations, or 435/425-3500. Fax 435/425-3510. www.thousandlakesrvpark.com. 67 sites, 8 cabins. $14 tent site; $19–$20 RV site; $30–$55 cabin. DISC, MC, V. Closed late Oct to late Mar.

6 Where to Stay

There are no lodging or dining facilities in the park itself, but the town of Torrey, just west of the park entrance, can take care of most needs. Room tax adds about 9.5% to lodging bills. None of the following accept pets.

In addition to the properties discussed below, Torrey has a **Comfort Inn,** 2424 Utah 24 (✆ **800/424-6423** or 435/425-3866), with rates for two from $72 to $112 from mid-March through September and $42 to $62 from January through mid-March; and a **Super 8,** 600 E. Utah 24 (✆ **800/800-8000** or 435/425-3688), with rates of $45 to $89 from April through October and $39 to $72 the rest of the year. Also see the information on cabins at **Thousand Lakes RV Park & Campground** under "Camping," above.

Austin's Chuck Wagon Motel This attractive family-owned and -operated motel offers a wide range of options. The well-maintained property includes modern motel rooms, which have Southwestern decor, phones, and two queen-size beds; and a family suite with a large living room, fully equipped kitchen, and three bedrooms that sleep six. Our choice here, however, is one of the plush but still Western-style cabins, which were completed in 2000. Measuring 576 square feet, each cabin has two bedrooms (each with a queen-size bed), a living room with a queen-size sofa bed, a complete kitchen, a full bathroom with tub/shower combo, a covered porch, and a small yard with a barbecue grill and a picnic table. The grounds are attractively landscaped, with a lawn and large trees. Also on the property is a grocery store/bakery with a well-stocked deli that prepares hot and cold sandwiches. All rooms are nonsmoking.

12 W. Main St. (P.O. Box 750180), Torrey, UT 84775. ✆ **800/863-3288** or 435/425-3335. Fax 435/425-3434. www.austinschuckwagonmotel.com. 24 units. Motel rooms $64 double (lower rates Mar and Nov); cabins $110 for up to 4; family suite $125 double. Additional people $6. AE, DISC, MC, V. Closed Dec–Feb. **Amenities:** Outdoor pool; whirlpool; salon; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV.

Best Western Capitol Reef Resort Located a mile west of the national park entrance, this attractive Best Western is one of the closest lodgings to the park. Try to get a room on the back side of the motel, where you'll be rewarded with fantastic views of the area's red-rock formations. Standard units have either one king-size or two queen-size beds; minisuites have a king-size bed and a queen-size sofa sleeper, plus a coffeemaker, refrigerator, microwave, and wet bar; full suites add a separate sitting room for the sofa sleeper, a second TV and telephone, a jetted tub, and patio. The sun deck and pool are situated out back, away from road noise, with glass wind barriers and spectacular views.

2600 E. Utah 24 (P.O. Box 750160), Torrey, UT 84775. ✆ **888/610-9600** or 435/425-3761. Fax 435/425-3300. 97 units. June–Sept $99 double, $119–$139 suite; Oct–May $59–$79 double, $69–$119 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant; outdoor heated pool; tennis/basketball court; whirlpool; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer.

Capitol Reef Inn & Cafe This older, Western-style motel—small, beautifully landscaped, and adequately maintained—offers guest rooms that are both homey and comfortable. The furnishings are handmade of solid wood. Only one unit has a combination tub/shower; the others have showers only. Facilities include a playground, a lovely desert garden, and an intriguing, although not old, stone kiva. There's also a

book/gift shop offering American Indian crafts, guidebooks, and maps; and an exceptionally good restaurant.

360 W. Main St. (Utah 24), Torrey, UT 84775. ✆ **435/425-3271.** www.capitolreefinn.com. 10 units. $48 double. AE, DISC, MC, V. Closed Nov–Mar. **Amenities:** Restaurant (see below); large whirlpool. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, coffeemaker.

Sandcreek RV Park & Hostel This hostel, in a handsome log building, consists of one large room in which everyone—both men and women—sleeps, bunkhouse style. It offers sleeping space for eight, a TV, a microwave, high ceilings, and a porch with tables and chairs. The walls, high ceiling, and beams are of ponderosa pine, and the bunk beds are made of logs. Hostellers share the bathhouse with campers (p. 265), and linens are available. There are also two attractive but basic cabins that share the bathhouse as well. On the property you'll find an espresso bar, laundry, horseshoe pits, and a natural stone and petrified wood labyrinth that leads to a quiet meditation area. In addition, a gift shop features handmade deer antler jewelry, and you can often see the jeweler (who is also the hostel's owner/manager) at work.

540 Utah 24, 5 miles west of the park entrance (P.O. Box 750276), Torrey, UT 84775. ✆ **877/425-3578** or 435/425-3577. www.sandcreekrv.com. 1 shared unit, 2 cabins. Hostel $10–$12 per person; cabins $28 double. MC, V. Closed mid-Oct to Mar. **Amenities:** Coin-op laundry.

SkyRidge Inn Bed & Breakfast This combination bed-and-breakfast and art gallery offers a delightful alternative to the standard motel. The three-story Territorial-style inn has six distinctive units, each decorated with an eclectic mix of antiques and contemporary art. Two rooms have private decks with hot tubs; another has a two-person whirlpool tub inside and a private deck.

An impressive fireplace, decorated with over 30 pounds of nails, sits in the gallery/gathering room, and there is also a whirlpool. The inn is set on 75 acres, with hiking trails and spectacular views. Full breakfasts include homemade granola; fresh-baked coffeecake, muffins, or cinnamon rolls; and a hot entree such as Southwest frittata or pecan griddle-cakes. Smoking is not permitted.

950 E. Utah 24 (P.O. Box 750220), Torrey, UT 84775. ✆ **800/448-6990** or 435/425-3222. www.skyridgeinn.com. 6 units. Apr–Oct $119–$189 double; Nov–Mar $107–$170 double. Rates include breakfast and evening hors d'oeuvres. AE, MC, V. **Amenities:** Whirlpool. *In room:* A/C, TV/VCR, hair dryer, CD player.

7 Where to Dine

In addition to the restaurants discussed below, you'll find a good restaurant, open year-round, at the Best Western Capitol Reef Resort (see "Where to Stay," above).

Brink's Burgers Drive-In *Kids* BURGERS/SANDWICHES This nonfranchise fast-food restaurant serves good burgers and crunchy English-style chips in a cafelike setting and at outdoor picnic tables. In addition to better-than-average beef burgers, choices include a garden burger, chicken and fish selections, cheese sticks, onion rings, zucchini slices, breaded mushrooms, and spicy potato wedges. A variety of ice-cream cones and thick milkshakes are also available; no alcohol is served.

165 E. Main St., Torrey. ✆ **435/425-3710.** Most items $3–$7. MC, V. Daily 11am–9pm. Closed Nov–Feb.

Cafe Diablo ★★ SOUTHWESTERN Looks are deceiving. What appears to be a simple small-town cafe in a converted home is in fact a very fine restaurant, offering innovative beef, pork, chicken, seafood, and vegetarian selections, many created with a Southwestern flair. The menu varies, but could include pumpkin seed–crusted local trout served with cilantro-lime sauce and wild rice pancakes; Utah lamb marinated with

sage and rosemary; and artichoke and sun-dried tomato tamales. Pastries and ice creams, all made on the premises, are spectacular, and beer, wine, and cocktails are served.

599 W. Main St., Torrey. ✆ **435/425-3070.** www.cafediablo.net. Main courses $17–$28. MC, V. Daily 5–10pm. Closed mid-Oct to late Apr.

Capitol Reef Inn & Cafe ★ *Finds* AMERICAN This local favorite offers fine, fresh, healthy cuisine that's among the best you'll find in Utah. Known for its locally raised trout, the cafe is equally famous for its 10-vegetable salad served with all dinner entrees. Vegetables are grown locally, and several dishes—such as spaghetti and an excellent fettuccine primavera—can be ordered vegetarian or with various meats or fish. Steaks and chicken are also served. The atmosphere is casual, with comfortable seating, American Indian crafts, and large windows. The restaurant offers wine, beer, and a limited selection of mixed drinks.

360 W. Main St. ✆ **435/425-3271.** Main courses $4.95–$11 breakfast and lunch, $8.95–$20 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily 7am–9pm. Closed Nov–Mar.

14

Lake Powell & Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

This huge canyon is a spectacular wonderland of stark contrasts—parched desert, deep blue water, startlingly red rocks, rich green hanging gardens. A joint effort by man and nature, **Lake Powell and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area** ★★★ is a huge water park, with more shoreline than the West Coast of the continental United States. It's also a place of almost unbelievable beauty, where millions of visitors each year take to the water to explore, fish, water-ski, swim, or simply lounge in the sun.

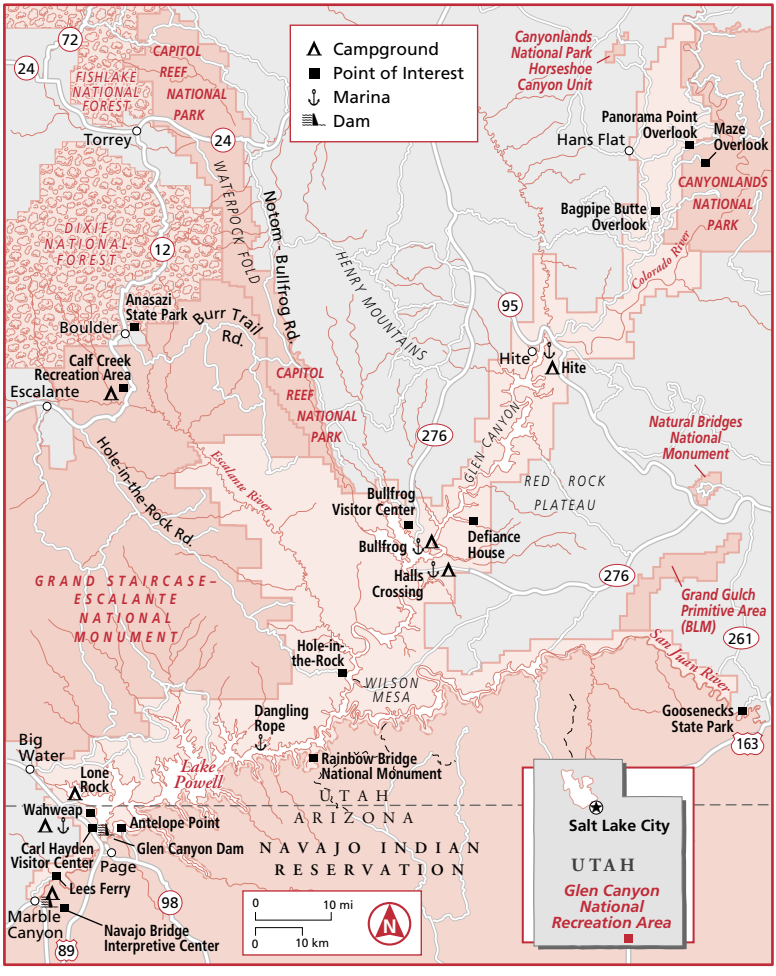
Named for Major John Wesley Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran who led a group of nine explorers on a scientific expedition down the Green and Colorado rivers in 1869, the lake is 186 miles long and has almost 100 major side canyons that give it 1,960 miles of shoreline. And with more than 160,000 surface acres of water, it's the second-largest man-made lake in the United States (after Lake Mead).

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, with Lake Powell at its heart, is three parks in one: a major destination for boaters and fishermen, a treasury of scenic wonders, and an important historic site. Lake Powell is best enjoyed by boat—you can glide through the numerous side canyons among delicately sculpted sandstone forms that are intricate, sensuous, and sometimes bizarre, that were formed by millions of years of erosion. One rock formation that's considered a must-see for every visitor is Rainbow Bridge National Monument, a huge natural stone bridge sacred to the Navajo and other area tribes. And there's much more to see: the 1870s stone fort and trading post at Lees Ferry, the Ancestral Puebloan (also called Anasazi) ruins of Defiance House, and the dam, which supplies water and electric power to much of the West.

1 Just the Facts

ACCESS POINTS: THE MARINAS Located in southern Utah and northern Arizona, Lake Powell and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area has four major access points: **Wahweap Marina** and **Lake Powell Resort** (✆ **928/645-2433**), on the lake's south end, is the most developed area of the recreation area, with the largest number of facilities, and the closest to additional lodging, dining, and services in nearby Page, Arizona; **Bullfrog Marina** (✆ **435/684-3088**) and **Halls Crossing Marina** (✆ **435/684-7000**) are mid-lake, and are also fairly well developed. **Hite Marina** (✆ **435/684-2278**), which has been closed recently due to low water, is normally the lake's northernmost access point. It is the smallest and least developed marina, with extremely limited services off season.

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area



These four marinas, operated by Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas, are accessible by car, operate year-round, and provide boat rentals, docks, fuel, fishing and other supplies, and accommodations. A fifth marina, **Dangling Rope,** is accessible by boat only (it's 40 lake miles north of the dam and 55 lake miles south of Halls Crossing and Bullfrog marinas), and is mainly a fuel stop, though it does offer minor repairs, limited supplies, a free dump/pump-out station, emergency medical services, and some of the best soft-serve ice cream around. A sixth marina, **Antelope Point,** has a six-lane day-use-only launch ramp onto the original channel of the river, small courtesy docks, a large graveled parking area, restrooms, and a beach access road, but no fuel or services. This ramp may close during low water levels. **Lees Ferry** is a popular river crossing, but does not offer direct access to Lake Powell.

GETTING THERE **Wahweap Marina** and **Glen Canyon Dam** are just off U.S. 89, 6 miles north of Page, Arizona. Wahweap is 150 miles southeast of Bryce Canyon National Park; 130 miles northeast of the north rim of Grand Canyon National Park; 65 miles east of Kanab; 267 miles east of Las Vegas, Nevada; and 381 miles south of Salt Lake City. By road, **Halls Crossing** is 220 miles northeast of Wahweap, and **Bullfrog** is 283 miles northeast (both are about 100 miles from Wahweap by boat); both are reachable via Utah 276. **Hite,** 40 miles uplake from Halls Crossing and Bullfrog, is off Utah 95.

Motorists can reach the dam and **Wahweap Marina** via U.S. 89 from Kanab or Grand Canyon National Park, and via Ariz. 98 from the east. To get to the **Lees Ferry** section, south of Wahweap, drive south on U.S. 89 and then north on U.S. 89A to Marble Canyon, where you can pick up the Lees Ferry access road.

Bullfrog and **Halls Crossing** marinas, which are connected by a toll ferry mid-lake, are accessible via Utah 276, which loops southwest from Utah 95. The 3-mile crossing takes about 25 minutes. For the current schedule and rates, contact either Bullfrog or Halls Crossing marinas (see "Access Points: The Marinas," above). **Hite Marina,** in the northernmost section of the recreation area, is just off Utah 95.

Flights between Page and Southwestern cities including Phoenix and Denver are available from **Great Lakes Airlines** (✆ **800/554-5111;** www.greatlakesav.com).

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTERS For advance information, contact Superintendent, **Glen Canyon National Recreation Area,** P.O. Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040-1507 (✆ **928/608-6200;** www.nps.gov/glca), or call the **Carl Hayden Visitor Center** (✆ **928/608-6404**). Books, maps, and other materials are available from the nonprofit **Glen Canyon Natural History Association,** P.O. Box 1835, Page, AZ 86040 (✆ **877/453-6296** or 928/608-6358; www.glencanyonassociation.org).

For lodging, tour, and boat-rental information, contact the licensed park concessionaire, **Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas,** P.O. Box 1597, Page, AZ 86040 (✆ **800/528-6154** or 928/645-2433; www.lakepowell.com).

Numerous services, including lodging and dining, are available in nearby Page, Arizona. For information, contact the **Page-Lake Powell Chamber of Commerce,** 644 N. Navajo Dr., Dam Plaza (P.O. Box 727), Page, AZ 86040 (✆ **888/261-7243** or 928/645-2741; www.pagelakepowellchamber.org). It's open daily in summer from 9am to 6pm, Monday through Friday in winter from 9am to 5pm. Another good website is www.canyon-country.com/lakepowell.

The **Carl Hayden Visitor Center,** at Glen Canyon Dam, 2 miles north of Page, Arizona, via U.S. 89, has exhibits on the construction of the dam, local dinosaurs, and other related subjects. Audiovisual programs, free brochures, and books, maps, and videos are available. The visitor center is open daily 8am to 6pm from mid-May through mid-September, the rest of the year daily from 8am to 5pm.

At the **Bullfrog Visitor Center,** at mid-lake off Utah 276, you'll find a variety of exhibits and information. It's open 10am to 7pm from May through September and 8am to 5pm during April; closed at other times. An interpretative center at Navajo Bridge, along U.S. 89A near Lees Ferry, is open from 9am to 5pm from mid-April through October, open weekends 10am to 4pm in early April and November, and closed from December through March. The Halls Crossing Boater Contact Station, a self-serve visitor information center, is usually open daily from 8am to 6pm during the summer. Ranger stations at Hans Flat and Hite also offer park information, but these stations are only open intermittently.

Tips A Bird's-Eye View of Lake Powell

The quickest way to see the sights is by air. **Westwind Air Service** (✆ **800/245-8668** or 928/645-2494; www.westwindairservice.com) provides half-hour flights over the dam, Rainbow Bridge, and other scenic attractions, plus longer flights take in the Grand Canyon, Canyonlands, Monument Valley, and even Bryce Canyon, starting at $178 per person.

FEES & REGULATIONS Entry into the park costs $10 per vehicle or $5 per person for up to 7 days. Boating fees are $16 for the first vessel and $8 for each thereafter, for up to 7 days. Backcountry permits (free) are required for overnight trips into the Escalante River section of the national recreation area.

The standard National Park Service regulations—such as not damaging anything and driving only on established roadways—apply here; additional regulations are aimed at protecting water quality of the lake by prohibiting any dumping of garbage into the water, plus requiring the containment and proper disposal of human wastes within one-fourth mile of the lake. Safe-boating requirements include mandatory use of life jackets by children 12 and under. Remember, boating regulations are slightly different in Utah and Arizona; brochures of regulations are available at the marinas. Pets must be leashed at all times, except on houseboats, and are prohibited in public buildings.

SEASONS/AVOIDING THE CROWDS The park is open year-round and is busiest in summer—when it's also the hottest, with temperatures sometimes topping 100°F (38°C). Spring is pleasant, but can be a bit windy. We like October, when the water's still warm enough for swimming but most of the crowds have gone home. Winter can also be beautiful, with snow only rarely dusting the rocks, and daytime temperatures usually in the 40s and 50s (single digits and teens Celsius). Another advantage to visiting in off season: discounts on lodging and tours November through March, and on boat rentals October to May.

RANGER PROGRAMS Amphitheater programs at Wahweap Campground take place several evenings each week in summer. Topics vary, but may include such subjects as the animals or plants of the park, geology, or the canyon's human history. Schedules are posted on bulletin boards at the campground and at the visitor center.

Kids 12 and under can become **Junior Rangers** and receive badges by completing projects in an activity book available at the Carl Hayden and Bullfrog visitor centers.

2 Exploring Lake Powell by Boat

The best way to see Lake Powell and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is by boat, either your own or a rental, or on a boat tour. Our favorite way to explore is by **renting a houseboat** ★★ for a week and wandering among the numerous side canyons.

If your time is limited, try to spend a few hours touring the dam and seeing the exhibits in the Carl Hayden Visitor Center, particularly the excellent relief map that helps you see the big picture. Then take one of the boat tours, such as the half-day trip to Rainbow Bridge. Adventurous types might want to buy some good maps, rent a boat for the day, and explore the canyons on their own. But whatever you do, try to get to Rainbow Bridge.

BRINGING YOUR OWN BOAT If you happened to bring your own boat, whether it's a one-person kayak or family-size cabin cruiser, you'll have a wonderful time. Boat-launching ramps are located at Wahweap, Stateline, Lees Ferry, Bullfrog, Halls Crossing, and Hite (the locations of these marinas are described earlier in the chapter). Fuel, supplies, sewage pump-out stations, drinking water, and boat repairs are available at all of the above except Lees Ferry. Services and supplies are also available at Dangling Rope Marina, about 40 miles uplake from Wahweap Marina and accessible only by boat.

As part of the Lake Powell Pure campaign, new facilities are being added for the disposal of human waste. You can get directions to them at the marinas or visitor center.

BOAT RENTALS **Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas** (p. 271) rents powerboats of all sizes, from two-passenger personal watercraft to luxurious 75-foot houseboats.

Late spring through early fall is the best time to be on the water, and consequently the most expensive: Rates for houseboats that sleep up to 12 people range from $2,410 to $5,400 for 4 days, or $3,533 to $9,499 for 7 days. Rates are considerably lower—sometimes by as much as 40%—in winter. Rates for small fishing boats, ski boats, and personal watercraft range from $138 to $330 per day. Ask about packages that include boat rentals plus lodging, houseboats with smaller powerboats, and powerboats with water-skiing equipment. Nonmotorized water toys are also available for rent. Most types of boats, although not necessarily all sizes, are available at Wahweap, Bullfrog, Halls Crossing, and Hite marinas. We strongly recommend making reservations well in advance (see p. 271 for the marina telephone numbers).

You can sometimes get lower rates away from the marinas. In Page, stop at **Doo Powell, Inc.,** 136 Sixth Ave. (✆ **928/645-3121;** www.doopowell.com), which offers powerboats and personal watercraft. About 12 miles northwest of Page in Big Water, Utah, is **Skylite Boat Rentals,** at U.S. 89 Mile Marker 6 (✆ **888/575-9548** or 435/675-3795; www.skylite.net), offering water toys—there are some great tubes that kids will love—and a range of powerboats.

Generally, anybody who can drive a car can pilot a boat. The only tricks are learning to compensate for wind and currents. Be sure to spend a few minutes practicing

Tips Warning: Carbon Monoxide Danger

When you're boating in the vastness of Lake Powell, basking in the sun and breathing that clear air, it seems impossible that carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning could be a threat. Yet, more than a dozen people have died on Lake Powell in the last few years as a result of CO poisoning, mostly from the fumes produced by houseboat generators and boat engines. An especially dangerous area is near the rear of the boat, where carbon monoxide can accumulate under and around the rear deck. Anyone swimming or playing near this area can be overcome in a matter of minutes. Don't allow anyone to swim or play near the rear deck while engines and/or generators are running, or for an hour after they've been turned off—CO can hang around that long. Sometimes CO exhaust can literally be sucked back into a boat that is underway, in what is called the "station wagon effect." Be aware of the symptoms of CO poisoning (which can include headaches, dizziness, weakness, sleepiness, nausea, and disorientation), as well as the conditions under which CO poisoning is possible.

turning and stopping; boats don't have brakes! No lessons or licenses are required; the marinas supply all the equipment you'll need and offer some training as well.

BOAT TOURS Year-round boat tours will take you to those hidden areas of the lake that you might never find on your own. Options range from 1-hour trips ($15 adults, $12 children 11 and under) to all-day tours to Rainbow Bridge (about $115 per adult, $75 per child; including lunch). Ask about sunset and dinner cruises, half-day trips to Rainbow Bridge, float trips, and numerous packages that combine tours with lodging and/or RV spaces. For information and reservations, contact **Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas** (p. 271).

3 Seeing the Sights

Among the many attractions here, several deserve special mention as must-sees. We've arranged them geographically, from the south end of the lake to the north.

LEES FERRY Downriver from Glen Canyon Dam, Lees Ferry is a historic river crossing and the site of a stone fort built by Mormon pioneers in 1874 for protection from the Navajo. It was later used as a trading post. You can see remains of the fort and a 1913 post office. Nearby at Lonely Dell, you'll find 19th- and early-20th-century ranch buildings, an orchard, and a blacksmith shop. Upriver, during low water, you can spot the remains of a steamboat, the *Charles H. Spencer,* a 92-foot-long paddle-wheeler that was used briefly in the early 1900s to haul coal for a gold-dredging operation.

Lees Ferry is also the starting point for white-water river trips through the Grand Canyon, and is known for its trophy trout fishing.

GLEN CANYON DAM Construction began on this U.S. Bureau of Reclamation project in October 1956. By the time the $155-million dam was completed in September 1963, almost 10 million tons of concrete had been poured, creating a wall 587 feet high and 3,700 feet long. It took until 1980 for the lake to reach its "full pool," covering much of the area that had been explored over 100 years earlier by Major John Wesley Powell. Today, the dam provides water storage, mostly for agriculture and hydroelectric power. Its eight generators, which cost an additional $70 million, produce more than 1 million kilowatts of electrical energy per day.

RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL MONUMENT ★★ This huge natural bridge is considered sacred by American Indians. The Navajo call it a "rainbow turned to stone," and in the summer of 1995, they briefly blocked the route to the bridge to conduct a blessing ceremony and to protest what they considered the bridge's commercialization. Located about 50 miles by boat from Wahweap, Bullfrog, and Halls Crossing marinas, the bridge is so spectacular that it was named a national monument in 1910, long before the lake was created. Believed to be the largest natural bridge in the world, Rainbow Bridge is almost perfectly symmetrical and parabolic in shape,

Impressions

So we have a curious ensemble of wonderful features—carved walls, royal arches, glens, alcove gulches, mounds, and monuments. From which of these features shall we select a name? We decide to call it Glen Canyon.

—Explorer Major John Wesley Powell, August 3, 1869

measuring 278 feet wide and standing 290 feet above the stream bed. The top is 42 feet thick and 33 feet across.

DEFIANCE HOUSE This archaeological site 3 miles up the middle fork of Forgotten Canyon, uplake from Halls Crossing, is believed to have been occupied by a small clan of Ancestral Puebloans between A.D. 1250 and 1275. The cliffside site includes ruins of several impressive stone rooms, food storage areas, and a kiva for religious ceremonies. The rock art panel, high along a cliff wall, includes a pictograph for which the ruin is named—an image of three warriors carrying clubs and shields. The panel also contains paintings of sheep and men.

4 Outdoor Pursuits

FISHING

Although March through November is the most popular season, the fishing is good year-round, especially for huge rainbow trout, which are often caught in the Colorado River between the dam and Lees Ferry. Lake fishermen also catch largemouth, smallmouth, and striped bass; catfish; crappie; and walleye. Because Glen Canyon National Recreation Area lies within two states, you'll need Utah and/or Arizona fishing licenses, depending on where you want to fish. The marinas sell licenses as well as fishing supplies.

HIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING & FOUR-WHEELING

Although boating and watersports are the main activities, most of this recreation area is solid ground—actually hard rock. Lake Powell makes up only 13% of the area, so hikers and other land-based recreationists will find plenty to do. There are few marked trails and changing water levels create a constantly shifting shoreline.

HIKING Several short hikes lead to panoramic vistas of Lake Powell. For a view of the lake, Wahweap Bay, the Colorado River channel, and the sandstone cliffs of Antelope Island, drive half a mile east from the Carl Hayden Visitor Center, cross a bridge, and turn left onto an unmarked gravel road; follow it for about a mile to its end and a parking lot in an area locally known as **The Chains** (day-use area only). Heading north from the parking lot, follow the unmarked but obvious trail across sand, up slickrock, and across a level gravel section to an overlook that provides a magnificent view of the lake. This is usually a 10-minute walk (one-way). To extend the hike, you can find a way down to the water's edge, but beware: The steep sandstone can be slick.

Several hikes originate in the Lees Ferry area, including a moderate 2-mile round-trip hike through narrow **Cathedral Canyon** to the Colorado River. The trail head is at the second turnout from U.S. 89A along Lees Ferry Road. This hike isn't along a marked trail, but rather down a wash, past intriguing rock formations. In wet weather, be alert for flash floods and deep pools. Allow 1 to 1½ hours for the round-trip hike.

Another relatively easy hike, the **River Trail,** starts just upriver from the Lees Ferry fort and follows an old wagon road to a ferry-crossing site, passing the historic submerged steamboat, the *Charles H. Spencer.* Allow about an hour for this 2-mile round-trip walk. A self-guiding booklet is available at Lees Ferry.

A heavy-duty 34-mile hike through the **Paria Canyon Primitive Area,** which departs from Lonely Dell Ranch at Lees Ferry, takes you through beautiful but narrow canyons. ***Beware:*** Flash flooding can be hazardous. This hike requires a permit from the Bureau of Land Management office in Kanab (✆ **435/644-4600;** www.ut.blm.gov/kanab_fo).

Although most visitors take an easy half- or full-day boat trip to see beautiful Rainbow Bridge National Monument, it is possible to hike to it, although the 14-mile one-way trail is difficult and not maintained. It crosses the Navajo Reservation and requires a permit. Contact the **Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department,** P.O. Box 2520, Window Rock, AZ 86515 (✆ **928/871-6647;** www.navajonationparks.org).

Serious backcountry hikers should obtain current maps of the area and discuss their plans with rangers before setting out. Hikers should carry at least 1 gallon of water per person, per day.

MOUNTAIN BIKING & FOUR-WHEELING Mountain bikers and four-wheel-drive enthusiasts must stay on established roadways within the recreation area, but quite a few challenging dirt roads can be found both in the recreation area and on adjacent federal land. Get information from the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area office (p. 271).

In the Hite area, the **Orange Cliffs** are particularly popular among mountain bikers. The 53-mile one-way **Flint Trail** connects Hite with Hans Flat in the far-northern section of the recreation area. It's rocky, with some sandy stretches and steep grades.

For a shorter ride, the **Panorama Point/Cleopatra's Chair Trail** follows recreation area routes 744, 774, and 775 for 10 miles (one-way) from Hans Flat to Cleopatra's Chair, providing a spectacular view into Canyonlands National Park. Camping in the Orange Cliffs area requires a permit, and strict regulations apply; contact the **Hans Flat Ranger Station** (✆ **435/259-2652**).

The Escalante River canyons of the national recreation area are accessible by four-wheel-drive vehicle via the 57-mile one-way **Hole-in-the-Rock Road,** which leaves Utah 12 5 miles east of Escalante, traversing part of the Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument (see chapter 12). Managed by the Bureau of Land Management (✆ **435/644-4600;** ww.ut.blm.gov), the dirt and sometimes rocky road passes through **Devil's Rock Garden,** an area of unique rock formations, and offers a spectacular overlook of Lake Powell. Although four-wheel-drive is not always needed, the last 6 miles of the road require a high clearance vehicle. Regardless of what you're driving, you'll want to avoid the road in wet weather. Allow about 6 hours round-trip.

5 Camping

National recreation area concessionaire **Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas** (p. 271) operates year-round full-service RV parks at Wahweap, Bullfrog, and Halls Crossing, with complete RV hookups, modern restrooms, RV dump stations, drinking water, groceries, and LP gas. Wahweap and Halls Crossing have showers and coin-op laundries as well. Rates for two people range from $30 to $35; $3 for each additional person over age 6; reservations are accepted through the concessionaire. Package deals that include RV sites and boat tours are offered.

The National Park Service operates a campground year-round at Lees Ferry, with 54 sites, flush toilets, and drinking water, but no showers or RV hookups. Reservations are not accepted; rates are $10 per site. The only camping at Hite is a primitive campground with no amenities. Cost is $6 and it's open year-round.

Free dispersed camping is permitted throughout the recreation area, except within 1 mile of marinas and Lees Ferry, and at Rainbow Bridge National Monument. Those camping within one-fourth mile of Lake Powell are required to have and use self-contained or portable toilets.

6 Where to Stay & Dine

Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas (p. 271) operates all of the recreation area's lodging and dining facilities, as well as the houseboat rentals; call to make reservations and to get additional information.

Although plenty of hotels, motels, and condominium-type units are available, our choice for lodging is that wonderful floating vacation home, the **houseboat.** Powered by two outboard motors and complete with full kitchen, bathrooms with hot showers, and sleeping areas for up to 12, houseboats serve not only as your home-away-from-home, but also as your means of exploring the fascinating red-rock canyons that make Lake Powell the unique paradise it is. Hungry? There's a fridge, a kitchen stove with oven, and a gas barbecue grill. For prices and additional information, see "Exploring Lake Powell by Boat," above.

In addition to the facilities described below, a variety of motels are located in Page, Arizona. For information, contact the **Page-Lake Powell Chamber of Commerce** (p. 271).

AT WAHWEAP

If you prefer a bedroom that doesn't float, consider the **Lake Powell Resort** (formerly the Wahweap Lodge), the largest (350 units) and fanciest hotel in the area. Right at the Wahweap Marina, it offers good access for boat tours and rentals, has two pools and a whirlpool, and provides shuttle service into Page. Rooms on the west side have spectacular views of Lake Powell. Rates for two range from $99 to $159.

Restaurants at Wahweap Marina include the **Rainbow Room,** at Wahweap Lodge (✆ **928/645-2433**), providing American and Southwestern dishes along with a panoramic view of Lake Powell. All three meals are served daily; dinner main courses cost $15 to $29. A fast-food restaurant at the marina is open during the summer.

AT BULLFROG & THE OTHER MARINAS

The attractive **Defiance House Lodge,** at Bullfrog Marina, has 50 rooms with beautiful views of the lake; prices for two range from $129 to $159. A fine-dining restaurant is open year-round; a fast-food joint is open in summer only.

Three-bedroom mobile-home family units are available at Bullfrog, Halls Crossing, and Hite marinas. Prices for up to six people are about $199 in summer, about 30% to 40% lower at other times.

15

From Moab to Arches & Canyonlands National Parks

Canyonlands country they call this—a seemingly infinite high desert of rock, with spectacular formations and rugged gorges that have been carved over the centuries by the forces of the Colorado and Green rivers. Massive sandstone spires and arches that seem to defy gravity, all colored by iron and other minerals in shades of orange, red, and brown, define the national parks of southeastern Utah. This is a land that begs to be explored—if you've come to Utah for mountain biking, hiking, four-wheeling, or rafting, then this is the place. And the region holds a few surprises, too, from Ancestral Puebloan (also called Anasazi) dwellings and rock art to dinosaur bones.

1 Moab: Gateway to the National Parks

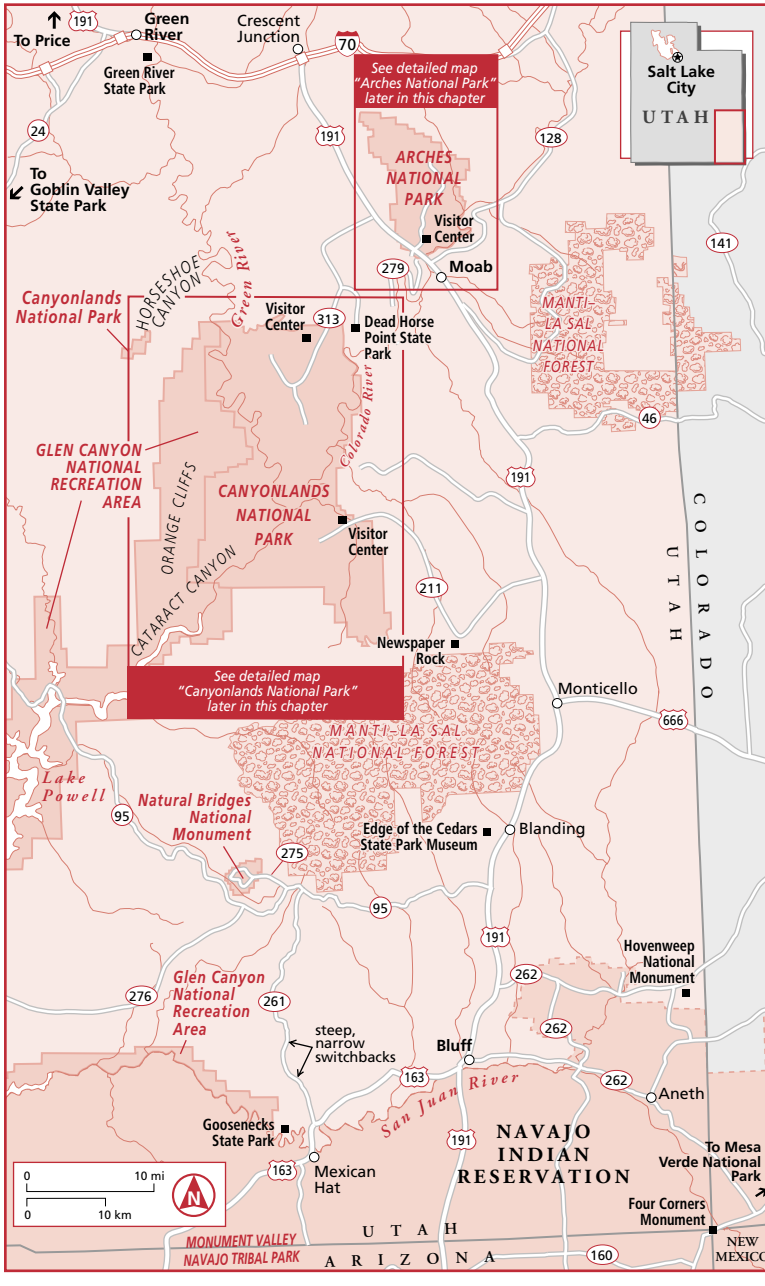
238 miles SE of Salt Lake City

Named for a biblical kingdom at the edge of Zion, the promised land, Moab has evolved into a popular base camp for mountain bikers, four-wheel-drive enthusiasts, hikers, kayakers, and rafters eager to explore the red-rock canyon country that dominates southeastern Utah. A drive down Main Street confirms that yes, this is a tourist town, with scores of businesses catering to visitors.

Not far from the Colorado River, Moab sits in a green valley among striking red sandstone cliffs, a setting that has lured Hollywood filmmakers for hits such as John Wayne's *The Comancheros,* the biblical epic *The Greatest Story Ever Told, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, Thelma and Louise,* and *City Slickers II.*

It's also become a favorite location for Madison Avenue. Remember those Chevy commercials with a car perched atop a huge red tower of stone? That's Castle Rock, one of the Moab area landmarks—and the only way to get to the top is by rock climbing or helicopter. According to Bette Stanton, local author and film historian, when the first commercial in the series was being made in 1963, Chevrolet successfully hauled a car and a negligee-clad model to the top of the 1,000-foot tower, but by the time filming was done for the day, gusty winds made it impossible for the helicopter to land to pick up the model. A crew member, carrying extra clothes, was dropped to keep her company, and after a chilly night they were both airlifted down.

Like most Utah towns, Moab was established by Mormon pioneers sent by church leader Brigham Young. But Moab was actually founded twice. The first time, in 1855, missionaries set up Elk Mountain Mission to see to the spiritual needs of the local Utes. Apparently unimpressed with the notion of abandoning their own religion for the ways of the LDS Church, the Utes killed several missionaries, sending the rest back to Salt


To Price
191
Green River
Green River State Park
Crescent Junction
70
See detailed map "Arches National Park" later in this chapter
Salt Lake City
UTAH
24
To Goblin Valley State Park
191
128
ARCHES NATIONAL PARK
Visitor Center
Moab
279
141
Canyonlands National Park
HORSESHOE CANYON
Green River
Visitor Center
313
Dead Horse Point State Park
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
Colorado River
46
GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
ORANGE CLIFFS
CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK
Visitor Center
191
CATARACT CANYON
211
Newspaper Rock
See detailed map "Canyonlands National Park" later in this chapter
COLORADO
UTAH
Monticello
666
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
Lake Powell
95
Natural Bridges National Monument
Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum
Blanding
275
95
191
Hovenweep National Monument
262
276
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
261
steep, narrow switchbacks
Bluff
262
163
262
Aneth
San Juan River
Gooseneck State Park
191
NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION
To Mesa Verde National Park
163
Mexican Hat
Four Corners Monument
0
10 mi
0
10 km
N
MONUMENT VALLEY NAVAJO TRIBAL PARK
UTAH
ARIZONA
160
NEW MEXICO

Lake City in a hurry. It wasn't until 20 years later that the settlers tried again; this time, they successfully established a small farming and ranching community.

Moab (elevation 4,000 ft.) remains a relatively small town, with just under 5,000 permanent residents, but that still makes it the biggest community in southeastern Utah. Practically within walking distance of Arches National Park, Moab is also close to Canyonlands National Park and is surrounded by the Manti-La Sal National Forest and vast, open spaces under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE Situated on U.S. 191, Moab is 30 miles south of I-70 (take exit 182 at Crescent Junction) and 53 miles north of Monticello. Moab is 399 miles northeast of the north rim of Grand Canyon National Park and 238 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. From Salt Lake City, follow I-15 south to Spanish Fork, take U.S. 6 southeast to I-70, and follow that east to Crescent Junction, where you'll pick up U.S. 191 south to Moab.

Sixteen miles north of downtown Moab, **Canyonlands Field** (✆ **435/259-7419;** www.moabairport.com) has daily scheduled flights between Moab and Salt Lake City on **Salmon Air** (✆ **800/448-3413;** www.salmonair.com) and car rentals from Thrifty. Shuttle service into Moab is also available; check with the airport for details.

The closest major airport is **Walker Field,** in Grand Junction, Colorado (✆ **970/244-9100;** www.walkerfield.com), about 125 miles east of Moab, which has direct flights or connections from most major cities on America West Express, Delta/Skywest, Frontier, Great Lakes, and United Express. Car rentals are available at the Grand Junction airport or nearby from Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National, and Thrifty.

Another option for air travelers is to fly into **Salt Lake City International Airport** (✆ **800/595-2442** or 801/575-2400; www.slcairport.com), about 240 miles from Moab, which has service from most major airlines and rental-car companies. From there, you can rent a car, take a Salmon Air flight (see above), or take a shuttle van with **Bighorn Express** (✆ **888/655-7433** or 801/746-2417; www.bighornexpress.com), which charges $56 each way.

Amtrak's (✆ **800/872-7245;** www.amtrak.com) *California Zephyr* stops in Green River, about 52 miles north of Moab, and provides service to Salt Lake City and Grand Junction, Colorado. If you plan to go from Green River to Moab, make reservations with **Bighorn Express** (see above).

VISITOR INFORMATION For area information, contact the **Moab Area Travel Council,** P.O. Box 550, Moab, UT 84532 (✆ **800/635-6622** or 435/259-1370; www.discovermoab.com). Once you arrive, stop at the **Moab Information Center,** located in the middle of town at the corner of Main and Center streets and open daily 8am to 9pm in the summer, with shorter winter hours. This multi-agency visitor center has information from the Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Grand County Travel Council, and Canyonlands Natural History Association. You can get advice, watch a number of videos on Southwest attractions, pick up brochures on local businesses and outfitters, and purchase books, videos, and other materials. A board displays current weather conditions and campsite availability.

GETTING AROUND Rentals (standard passenger cars, vans, and four-wheel-drive vehicles) are available from **Thrifty** (✆ **435/259-7317**). Rugged four-wheel-drive

vehicles are available from **Farabee Jeep Rentals** (✆ **435/259-7494;** www.farabeejeeprentals.com) and **Slickrock Jeep Rentals** (✆ **435/259-5678;** www.moab-utah.com/jeep/jeep.html).

FAST FACTS In an emergency, dial ✆ **911.** The full-service **Allen Memorial Hospital,** 719 W. 400 North (✆ **435/259-7191;** www.amh-moab.org), offers 24-hour emergency care. The **post office** is at 50 E. 100 North (✆ **800/275-8777;** www.usps.com).

The best grocery store in town is **City Market,** 425 S. Main St. (✆ **435/259-5181;** www.citymarket.com), open daily from 6am to 10pm. Pick up sandwiches from the deli, mix it up at the excellent salad bar, or choose fresh-baked items from the bakery before hitting the trail. The store also sells fishing licenses, money orders, and stamps; offers photo finishing and Western Union services; and contains a pharmacy.

MOUNTAIN BIKING & OTHER OUTDOOR PURSUITS

The Moab area is one of Utah's main outdoor playgrounds, an ideal spot for hiking, boating, camping, or just plain horsing around (with or without the horse). In addition to the nearby national parks, Arches and Canyonlands, which are covered in full later in this chapter, there's plenty of room to roam on land administered by the **Bureau of Land Management's Moab** office, 82 E. Dogwood Ave., Moab, UT 84532 (✆ **435/259-2100;** www.blm.gov/utah/moab), and the **Manti-La Sal National Forest's Moab Ranger District,** 62 E. 100 North (P.O. Box 386), Moab, UT 84532 (✆ **435/259-7155;** www.fs.fed.us/r4). The best source for information is the **Moab Information Center** (p. 280).

Because of the extreme desert heat in summer, the best time for most outdoor activities is spring or fall—even the relatively mild winters are inviting. If you end up vacationing in the middle of summer, we recommend that you do your serious hiking and mountain biking early in the day, enjoy a siesta along the river or beside a swimming pool during the heat of the afternoon, and take a short hike in the evening, just before sundown.

Finds A Desert Oasis

For a delightful escape from the desert heat, take a break at the **Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve,** 934 W. Kane Creek Rd. (✆ **435/259-4629;** http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/utah/preserves/art5828.html). Owned by the Nature Conservancy, this lush oasis attracts more than 200 species of birds and other wildlife, such as river otters, beavers, and muskrats.

The preserve has a wheelchair-accessible 1-mile loop trail, boardwalks over the wet areas, and a two-story viewing blind. Guided bird walks are given (call for the current schedule), and bird and wildlife lists and self-guided tour brochures are available. In late spring and summer visitors are advised to take mosquito repellent.

The preserve is open daily year-round from dawn to dusk, and admission is free. From downtown Moab, go south on Main Street to Kane Creek Road (between McDonald's and Burger King), go west about ¾ mile, passing the Moab Public Works Department, to a Y in the road. Take the left fork, and continue for about another ½ mile to the preserve entrance. From the parking area, a footpath and bridge lead over Mill Creek to an information kiosk and into the preserve.

FOUR-WHEELING

The Moab area has thousands of miles of four-wheel-drive roads, most left over from mining days. These roads offer a popular way to explore this scenic country without exerting too much energy.

A number of local companies (see "Outfitters," below) provide guided trips, starting at about $80 per person. You can also rent a 4×4 and take off on your own (see "Getting Around," above).

When hitting the trail on your own, either in a rental or personal 4×4, you will find a number of possibilities, from fairly easy dirt roads to "You-don't-really-expect-me-to-take-this-$40,000-SUV-up-*there*-do-you?" piles of rocks. Several four-wheel-drive trips are described in the Canyonlands section of this chapter, and a free brochure, available at the Moab Information Center (p. 280), covers several others.

Our favorite four-wheel-drive trail is **Poison Spider Mesa Trail** ★★★, which covers 16 miles of 4×4 road, providing stupendous views down to the Colorado River and Moab Valley. It's considered difficult; a short-wheelbase high-clearance vehicle is best. Allow at least 4 hours. To reach the trail from the Moab Information Center, drive north on U.S. 191 for about 6 miles and turn west (left) onto Utah 279. Continue another 6 miles to the dinosaur tracks sign, where the trail leaves the pavement to the right, passing over a cattle guard. From here, simply follow the main trail, which is usually obvious, up switchbacks, through a sandy canyon, and over some steep, rocky stretches. From a slickrock parking area on top, you can take a short walk to Little Arch, which isn't really so little.

One easy 4×4 road is the **Gemini Bridges Trail,** which four-wheelers share with mountain bikers (the trail is described below in the mountain-biking section). Those with 4×4s often drive the route in the opposite direction of the mountain bikers, starting at a dirt road departing from the west side of U.S. 191, about 10 miles north of the Moab Information Center. This involves more uphill driving, which is safer for motor vehicles—mountain bikers usually prefer going downhill.

The self-guided **Mill Canyon Dinosaur Trail** provides a close-up view of dinosaur bones and fossils from the Jurassic period, 150 million years ago, including a sauropod leg bone, vertebrae, ribs, and toe bones. You'll also see the fossil remains of a large tree trunk. To reach the trail head, drive about 15 miles north of Moab on U.S. 191, then turn left at an intersection just north of highway mile marker 141. Cross the railroad tracks and follow a dirt road for about 2 miles to the trail head. Allow about 1 hour. On the south side of the canyon, you'll see the remnants of an old copper mill that operated in the late 1800s. Also nearby are the ruins of the Halfway Stage Station, a lunch stop in the late 1800s for stagecoach travelers making the 35-mile trip between Moab and Thompson, the nearest train station at that time. From the dinosaur trail head, go north as though you're returning to U.S. 191, but at the first intersection, turn right and drive to a dry wash, where you turn right again onto a jeep road that takes you a short distance to the stage station. The trail is managed by the **BLM's Moab office** (p. 280).

GOLFING

It might be hard to keep your eye on the ball at the 18-hole, par-72 **Moab Golf Club** course, 2705 S. East Bench Rd. (✆ **435/259-6488**). Located 5 miles south of downtown Moab in Spanish Valley (take Spanish Trail Rd. off U.S. 191), the challenging course, nestled among red sandstone cliffs, offers spectacular views in every direction.

Open daily year-round (weather permitting), the course has a driving range, a pro shop and lessons, cart rentals, and a snack bar that's open for breakfast and lunch. Greens fees, including cart, range from $20 to $49.

HIKING

The Moab area offers hundreds of hiking possibilities, many of them just a few miles from town. Get information at the Moab Information Center (p. 280) and pick up the free brochure that describes seven local trails. Hikes in nearby Arches and Canyonlands national parks are described later in this chapter.

Particularly in the summer, carry at least a gallon of water per person per day; we also recommend wearing a broad-brimmed hat.

A local favorite is the **Negro Bill Canyon Trail,** named for William Granstaff, who lived in the area in the late 1800s. Allow about 3 hours for this 4-mile round-trip hike, which is considered easy to moderate. You may get your feet wet, depending on the level of the stream you follow up the canyon. To get to the trail head, go north from Moab on U.S. 191 to Utah 128, turn east (right), and go about 3 miles to a dirt parking area. About 2 miles up the trail, in a side canyon to the right, you'll find Morning Glory Bridge, a natural rock span of 243 feet. Watch out for the poison ivy that grows by a pool under the bridge. (In case you don't remember from your scouting manual, poison ivy has shiny leaves with serrated edges, and grows in clusters of three.)

The **Hidden Valley Trail** is a bit more challenging, taking you up a series of steep switchbacks to views of rock formations and a panorama of the Moab Valley. Allow about 4 hours for the 4-mile round-trip. To get to the trail head, drive about 3 miles south of the Moab Information Center on U.S. 191, turn west (right) onto Angel Rock Road, and go 2 blocks to Rimrock Road. Turn north (right) and follow Rimrock Road to the parking area. The trail is named for a broad shelf, located about halfway up the Moab Rim. Many hikers turn around and head back down after reaching a low pass with great views of huge sandstone fins (the 2-mile point), but you can extend the hike by continuing all the way to the Colorado River on a four-wheel-drive road.

The highly recommended **Corona Arch Trail** offers views of three impressive arches, a colorful slickrock canyon, and the Colorado River. Allow 2 hours for this 3-mile round-trip hike, which involves a lot of fairly easy walking plus some rather steep spots with handrails and a short ladder. From Moab, go north on U.S. 191 to Utah 279, turn west (left), and go about 10 miles to a parking area on the north side of the road. You'll find a registration box and trail head near the railroad; after crossing the tracks, follow an old roadbed onto the trail, which is marked with cairns (piles of stones).

HORSEBACK RIDING

For those who want to see the canyons from horseback, several companies lead guided rides (get current information from the **Moab Information Center,** p. 280), and one company, **Adrift Adventures,** offers combination rafting/horseback riding excursions, starting at $82 per person (see "Outfitters," below).

Outfitters

Although Moab has plenty for the do-it-yourselfer, some 50 local outfitters offer guided excursions of all kinds, from lazy canoe rides to hair-raising jet-boat and four-wheel-drive adventures. The chart below lists some of the major companies that can help you fully enjoy this beautiful country, and you can get additional recommendations at the **Moab Information Center** (p. 280). All are located in Moab, zip code 84532. Advance

reservations are often required. It's best to check with several outfitters before deciding on one; in addition to asking about what you'll see and do and what it costs, it doesn't hurt to make sure the company is insured and has the proper permits with the various federal agencies. Also ask about its cancellation policy, just in case.

Outfitter	4WD	Bike	Boat	Horse	Rent
Adrift Adventures 378 N. Main St., Box 577 ✆ 800/874-4483, 435/259-8594 www.adrift.net	•		•	•	
Canyon Voyages Adventure Co. 211 N. Main St., Box 416 ✆ 800/733-6007, 435/259-6007 www.canyonvoyages.com	•		•		•
Dan Mick's Guided Jeep Tours 600 Mill Creek Dr., Box 1234 ✆ 435/259-4567 www.danmick.com	•				
Magpie Adventures P.O. Box 1496 ✆ 800/546-4245, 435/259-4464 www.magpieadventures.com		•			
Moab Rafting Co. Box 801 ✆ 800/746-6622, 435/259-7238 www.moab-rafting.com			•		
Navtec Expeditions 321 N. Main St., Box 1267 ✆ 800/833-1278, 435/259-7983 www.navtec.com	•		•		•
OARS Canyonlands Tours 543 N. Main St. ✆ 800/342-5938, 435/259-5865 www.oarsutah.com	•		•		
Sheri Griffith Expeditions 2231 S. U.S. 191, Box 1324 ✆ 800/332-2439, 435/259-8229 www.griffithexp.com			•		
Tag-A-Long Expeditions 452 N. Main St. ✆ 800/453-3292, 435/259-8946 www.tagalong.com	•		•		•
Western Spirit Cycling 428 Mill Creek Dr. ✆ 800/845-2453, 435/259-8732 www.westernspirit.com		•			

MOUNTAIN BIKING

With hundreds and hundreds of miles of trails, a wide variety of terrain, and spectacular scenery, Moab is easily the mountain-bike capital of Utah, and possibly of the United States (although the folks in Crested Butte, Colorado, might disagree). In addition to the mountain biking possibilities on four-wheel-drive roads in the national parks (see sections on Arches and Canyonlands national parks, later in this chapter), there are abundant trails on Bureau of Land Management and national forest lands that are much less trafficked than national park routes.

When you get into town, stop by the Moab Information Center (p. 280) for a free copy of the *Moab Area Mountain Bike Trails* pamphlet. Discuss your plans with the very knowledgeable staff here, who can help you find the trails most suitable for your interests, ability, and equipment. You can also get information, as well as rent or repair bikes, at **Slickrock Cycles,** 427 N. Main St. (✆ **800/825-9791** or 435/259-1134; www.slickrockcycles.com). Bike rentals start at about $35 per day. Bike shuttle services are available from several companies, including **Acme Bike Shuttle** (✆ **435/260-2534**), **Coyote Shuttle** (✆ **435/259-8656;** www.coyoteshuttle.com), and **Roadrunner Shuttle** (✆ **435/259-9402;** www.roadrunnershuttle.com).

Several local companies (see "Outfitters," above) also offer guided mountain-bike tours, with rates at about $200 for a full day, and multi-day biking/camping trips from about $600.

The area's most famous trail is undoubtedly the **Slickrock Bike Trail** ★★★, a scenic but challenging 9⅔-mile loop that crosses a mesa of heavily eroded pale orange Navajo sandstone just a few minutes from downtown Moab. Along the way, the trail offers views that take in the towering La Sal Mountains, the red-rock formations of Arches National Park, a panorama of Canyonlands National Park, and the Colorado River. The trail, open to both mountain bikes and motorcycles, is physically demanding and technically difficult, and not recommended for children, novices, or anyone who is out of shape or has medical problems. Allow 4 to 5 hours, and expect to walk your bike in some areas. If you're not sure you're ready for the trail, get started on the 2¼-mile practice loop. To access the trail head from the visitor information center, take Center Street east to 400 East. Turn south (right) and follow 400 East to Mill Creek Drive. Turn east (left) and follow Mill Creek Drive to Sand Flats Road, which you take 2⅓ miles east to the BLM's Sand Flats Recreation Area and the trail head.

Those looking for a somewhat less challenging experience might try the **Gemini Bridges Trail,** a 14-mile one-way trip that shows off the area's colorful rock formations, including the trail's namesake: two natural rock bridges. Considered relatively easy, this trail follows a dirt road mostly downhill, ending at U.S. 191 just under 10 miles from the center of Moab, so it's best to arrange a shuttle. To get to the trail head from the Moab Information Center, drive north along U.S. 191 to Utah 313, turn west (left), and go about 13 miles. Allow a full day, including getting to and from the trail, and be sure to watch for the magnificent view of Arches National Park from a hilltop as you approach U.S. 191 near the end of the ride.

Although there are dozens of fabulous trails to explore in the immediate area, mountain bikers who really want to go somewhere—perhaps all the way to Colorado—will want to check out Kokopelli's Trail and the San Juan Hut System. Winding for 142 miles across sandstone and shale canyons, deserts, and mountains, **Kokopelli's Trail** connects Moab and Grand Junction, Colorado. It combines all types of mountain biking, from demanding single track to well-maintained dirt roads,

and passes primitive campsites along the way. Elevation change is about 4,200 feet. The west end of the trail is near Sand Flats Road in Moab; the east end is at the Loma Boat Launch, 15 miles west of Grand Junction. For more information contact the **Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association,** P.O. Box 4602, Grand Junction, CO 81502 (✆ **970/241-9737;** www.copmoba.com).

The **San Juan Hut System,** P.O. Box 773, Ridgway, CO 81432 (✆ **970/626-3033;** www.sanjuanhuts.com), links Moab with Telluride, Colorado, via a 206-mile-long network of backcountry dirt roads. Every 35 miles, you'll find a primitive cabin with eight bunks, a wood stove, a propane cooking stove, cooking gear, and groceries. The route is appropriate for intermediate-level mountain-bikers in good physical condition; more experienced cyclists will find advanced technical single tracks near the huts. The mountain biking season generally runs from June through September. The cost for riders who plan to make the whole trip is $553 per person, which includes use of the six huts, food, sleeping bags at each hut, and maps and trail descriptions. Shorter trips and vehicle shuttles are also available.

ROCK CLIMBING

Those with the proper skills and equipment for rock climbing will find ample opportunities in the Moab area; check with the BLM (p. 280). Several companies also offer instruction and guided climbs, with rates for full-day climbs starting at $130 per person for groups of three or four. Contact **Desert Highlights,** 50 E. Center St. (P.O. Box 1342), Moab, UT 84532 (✆ **800/747-1342** or 435/259-4433; www.deserthighlights.com), **Moab Desert Adventures,** 801 Oak St., Moab, UT 84532 (✆ **877/ROK-MOAB** or 435/260-2404; www.moabdesertadventures.com), or **Moab Cliffs & Canyons,** 63 E. Center St., Moab, UT 84532 (✆ **877/641-5271** or 435/259-3317; www.cliffsandcanyons.com). For gear or to rent climbing shoes, stop at **Pagan Mountaineering,** 52 S. Main St. (✆ **435/259-1117;** www.paganmountaineering.com), or **Gearheads,** 471 S. Main St. (✆ **435/259-4327**).

WATERSPORTS: BOATING, CANOEING, RAFTING & MORE

After spending hours in the blazing sun looking at mile upon mile of huge red sandstone rock formations, it's easy to get the idea that the Moab area is a baking, dry, rock-hard desert. Well, it is. But Moab is also the only town in Utah that sits along the **Colorado River** ★★, and it's rapidly becoming a major boating center.

You can travel down the river in a canoe, kayak, large or small rubber raft (with or without motor), or speedy, solid jet boat. Do-it-yourselfers can rent kayaks or canoes for $30 to $35 for a half-day and $35 to $45 for a full day, or rafts from $50 to $90 for a half-day and $60 to $130 for a full day. Half-day guided river trips cost from $32 to $40 per person; full-day trips are usually $40 to $60. Multi-day rafting expeditions, which include meals and camping equipment, start at about $175 per person for 2 days. Jet-boat trips, which cover a lot more river in a given amount of time, start at about $60 for a half-day trip, or $95 for a full day. Children's rates are usually about 20% lower. Some companies also offer sunset or dinner trips. See "Outfitters," above.

Public boat-launching ramps are opposite Lion's Park, near the intersection of U.S. 191 and Utah 128; at Take-Out Beach, along Utah 128 about 10 miles east of its intersection with U.S. 191; and at Hittle Bottom, also along Utah 128, about 24 miles east of its intersection with U.S. 191. For recorded information on river flows and reservoir conditions statewide, contact the **Colorado Basin River Forecast Center** (✆ **801/539-1311;** www.cbrfc.noaa.gov).

SEEING THE SIGHTS

Dan O'Laurie Moab Museum This growing museum has numerous displays depicting the history of Moab from prehistoric times to the present. It starts with exhibits on the geology of the area and the resultant uranium and radium mining, and has a hands-on testing area for identification of minerals. The archaeology section includes a large basket unearthed near Moab, and you can try your hand (actually your feet) at the restored player piano. Early home-medical remedies are on display, as is the first incubator, which used only a 25-watt bulb and was invented by a local doctor. You'll see primers from the early 1900s and a 1920 high-school annual called "The Whizzer," as well as the expected ranching and farming exhibits—even a handmade quilt depicting cattle brands. There's a display about the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service, describing their role in the area—a large one—and how they work together. Allow about an hour.

118 E. Center St. (2 blocks east of Main St.). ✆ **435/259-7985.** Admission $3 for those 12 and older, free for children under 12, $7 family. Apr–Oct Mon–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat–Sun noon–6pm; Nov–Mar Mon–Fri 10am–3pm, Sat–Sun noon–5pm. Closed holidays.

Film Museum at Red Cliffs Ranch Moab, and much of this part of Utah, has been a popular location for moviemaking since it was "discovered" by famed director John Ford. Ford filmed much of *Stagecoach,* starring a young John Wayne, in Monument Valley in the 1930s; and, in the 1940s, Ford found Moab. The Red Cliffs Ranch provided the spectacular scenery for many of Ford's movies, including *Wagon Master, Rio Grande,* and *Son of Cochise.* In recent years, feature films shot in the Moab area have included *City Slickers* and *Thelma and Louise.* The museum has exhibits from the earliest films to the most recent, including props, posters, and photos; and the scenery's still spectacular. Allow 1 hour.

Red Cliffs Ranch, 14 miles east of Moab on Utah 128 (milepost 14). ✆ **866/812-2002** or 435/259-2002. Free admission. Daily 8am–10pm.

WHERE TO STAY

Room rates are generally highest from mid-March through October, and sometimes drop by up to half in winter. Rates may also be higher during special events. Room tax of about 12¼% is added to all bills. Pets are not accepted unless otherwise noted.

Most visitors are here for the outdoors and don't plan to spend much time in their rooms; as a result, many book into one of the fully adequate chain and franchise motels, including **Super 8,** on the north edge of Moab at 889 N. Main St. (✆ **435/259-8868**), which is the town's largest lodging; **Days Inn,** 426 N. Main St. (✆ **435/259-4468**); **Best Western Canyonlands Inn,** 16 S. Main St. (✆ **435/259-5167**); and **Best Western Greenwell Inn,** 105 S. Main St. (✆ **435/259-6151**). **Comfort Suites,** 800 S. Main St. (✆ **435/259-5252**), **Motel 6,** 1089 N. Main St. (✆ **435/259-6686**), and **Sleep Inn,** 1051 S. Main St. (✆ **435/259-4655**), are all pet-friendly. Summer rates for two in standard rooms are generally less than $130 in all of the above; zip code is 84532. Alternatives include the **cabins** at Arch View Resort Camp Park, Canyonlands Campground & RV Park, and Moab Valley RV & Campground (see "Camping," below). You might also consider **Moab KOA**, 3225 South Hwy. 191, **Moab, UT 84532** (✆ **435/259-6682;** www.moabkoa.com).

Aarchway Inn Just 2 miles from the entrance to Arches National Park, on the north edge of Moab, this well-maintained modern motel has large rooms with great views, decorated in Southwestern style and with photos depicting the scenic attractions of the

area. The suites have whirlpool tubs. Most rooms contain two queen-size beds—eight family units also have queen-size sofabeds. There are also two apartments with full kitchens and 46-inch TVs (call for rates). There is a courtyard with barbecue grills, bike storage, conference rooms, and a gift shop. The entire property is nonsmoking.

1551 N. U.S. 191, Moab, UT 84532. ✆ **800/341-9359** or 435/259-2599. Fax 435/259-2270. www.aarchwayinn.com. 97 units. Mar–Oct $90–$120 double, $135–$175 suite; lower rates Nov–Feb. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Large outdoor heated pool; indoor whirlpool; exercise room. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, fridge, coffeemaker, microwave.

Big Horn Lodge Spacious rooms with log furniture and knotty pine walls give the Big Horn a lodgelike atmosphere. All of the well-maintained units have two queen-size beds and bathrooms with tub/shower combos. The property is within easy walking distance of most downtown restaurants and attractions. Bikes are permitted in the rooms.

550 S. Main St., Moab, UT 84532. ✆ **800/325-6171** or 435/259-6171. Fax 435/259-6144. www.moabbighorn.com. 58 units. Apr–Oct $79–$89 double; Nov–Mar $30–$35 double. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets permitted with $5 per-night fee. **Amenities:** Restaurant; outdoor heated pool; hot tub; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport, fridge, coffeemaker, hair dryer, microwave.

Bowen Motel This family-owned and -operated motel offers fairly large, comfortable, clean, basic rooms with attractive wallpaper, a king-size or one or two queen-size beds, and combination tub/showers. Some units have refrigerators and microwaves. Two family units sleep up to six persons each. The original structure was built in the 1940s, an addition was made in 1978, and a major renovation was completed in 1993 and 1994. Several restaurants are within easy walking distance.

169 N. Main St., Moab, UT 84532. ✆ **800/874-5439** or 435/259-7132. Fax 435/259-6641. www.bowenmotel.com. 40 units. $50–$85 double; off-season rates lower. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** Outdoor heated pool. *In room:* A/C, TV.

Lazy Lizard International Hostel For those willing to share, this hostel offers exceptionally clean, comfortable lodging at bargain rates on the south side of town, behind the A-l self-storage units. The main house, which is air-conditioned, has basic dorm rooms plus two private rooms. A separate building contains four private rooms, which look much like older motel units. The best facilities are the cabins, constructed of real logs, with beds for up to six. There's also a camping area (no hookups). Everyone shares the bathhouses, and there's a phone in the main house. Guests also have use of a fully equipped kitchen; living room with TV, VCR, and movies; gas barbecue grill; and picnic tables. Groups should inquire about the nearby houses, which can be rented by the night ($120–$220 for 14–30 people).

1213 S. U.S. 191, Moab, UT 84532. ✆ 435/259-6057. Fax 435/259-1122. www.lazylizardhostel.com. 25 dorm beds, 10 private rooms, 8 cabins; total capacity 65 persons. $9 dorm bed; $24 private room double occupancy; from $29 cabin double occupancy; $6 per person camping space. Showers $2 for nonguests. Hostel membership not necessary. MC, V. **Amenities:** Outdoor whirlpool tub; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, no phone.

Red Stone Inn *Value* This centrally located motel is comfortable, clean, and quiet, and decidedly welcoming to mountain bikers. The exterior gives the impression that these are cabins, and the theme continues inside as well, with attractive knotty pine walls decorated with colorful posters and maps of area attractions. Rooms are a bit on the small side, although perfectly adequate and spotlessly maintained. All rooms have kitchenettes with microwaves, coffeemakers (with coffee supplied), and refrigerators. Three wheelchair-accessible rooms have combination tub/showers—the

rest have showers only. There's a covered picnic area with tables and gas barbecue grills, and a bike work stand and bike wash station. Bikes are permitted in the rooms. Guests have access to an outdoor heated pool at the sister motel across the street.

535 S. Main St., Moab, UT 84532. ✆ **800/772-1972** or 435/259-3500. Fax 435/259-2717. www.moabredstone.com. 52 units. Summer $60–$75 double; winter $30–$35 double; slightly higher in Sept and during special events. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets permitted with $5 fee. **Amenities:** Access to heated outdoor pool; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, dataport.

Sunflower Hill Luxury Inn ★★ This high-class country-style retreat, 3 blocks off Main Street on a quiet dead-end road, offers elegant rooms and lovely outdoor areas, and is our choice for a relaxing escape. The rooms are individually decorated—for instance, the Summer House Suite boasts a colorful garden-themed mural—and have handmade quilts on the beds. Deluxe rooms have jetted tubs and private balconies. The popular French Bedroom includes a hand-carved antique bedroom set from France, stained-glass window, vaulted ceiling, white lace curtains, and large whirlpool tub and separate tiled shower. The grounds are grassy and shady, with fruit trees and flowers in abundance. Guests enjoy a swing, picnic table, and barbecue. The substantial breakfast buffet includes homemade breads and fresh-baked pastries, honey-almond granola, fresh fruits, and a hot entree such as a garden vegetable frittata, blueberry pancakes, or asparagus quiche. The units are all nonsmoking.

185 N. 300 East, Moab, UT 84532. ✆ **800/662-2786** or 435/259-2974. Fax 435/259-3065. www.sunflowerhill.com. 12 units. Mar to mid-Nov and holidays $135–$205 double; mid-Nov to Feb $90–$180 double. Rates include full breakfast and evening refreshments. AE, DISC, MC, V. Children under 10 accepted by prior arrangement. **Amenities:** Outdoor heated pool; hot tub; coin-op laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV/VCR, hair dryer, CD player, no phone.

CAMPING

In addition to the commercial campgrounds discussed here, there is also camping at Canyonlands and Arches national parks, at Dead Horse Point State Park, and at Newspaper Rock, which are discussed elsewhere in this chapter. Pets are permitted in campgrounds unless otherwise noted. Those camping on public lands where there are no showers can find them at the **Moab Swim Center,** 181 W. 400 North (✆ **435/259-8226**), local campgrounds, and bike shops. Cost is about $3 to $5.

Arch View Resort Camp Park This campground offers all the usual RV hookups, showers, and other amenities you'd expect in a first-class commercial RV park, plus great views into Arches National Park, especially at sunset. Located about 6 miles from the park entrance, Arch View has trees throughout the park, a grassy tent area, a convenience store, a pool, a playground, a coin-op laundry, and propane, gasoline, and diesel sales. There are also some basic log cabins and more upscale cottages ($33 and up for two people).

U.S. 191, at the junction with U.S. 313, 9 miles north of town (P.O. Box 938), Moab, UT 84532. ✆ **800/813-6622** or 435/259-7854. www.archviewresort.com. 71 sites. $17–$24 for 2 people. AE, DISC, MC, V. Closed mid-Nov to mid-Feb.

Canyonlands Campground & RV Park This campground is surprisingly shady and quiet, given its downtown location. Open year-round, it has tent sites as well as partial and full (including cable TV) RV hookups. Facilities include a dump station, self-service laundry, convenience store, playground, and outdoor heated pool. There are also six cabins ($35 for two). A City Market grocery store is within walking distance.

555 S. Main St., Moab, UT 84532. ✆ **800/522-6848** or 435/259-6848. www.canyonlandsrv.com. 144 sites. $18–$27 for 2 people. AE, DISC, MC, V.

Moab Valley RV & Campground Situated on the north side of Moab, near the intersection of U.S. 191 and Utah 128, this campground is just 2 miles from Arches National Park. Practically any size RV can be accommodated in the extra-large pull-through sites; all sites have great views of the surrounding rock formations. Both tenters and RVers will enjoy the trees and patches of grass, and full RV hookups include cable TV connections. Facilities include an RV dump station, coin-op laundry, and convenience store, but no pool or playground. There are 18 cabins and cottages ($36–$67 for two).

1773 N. U.S. 191, Moab, UT 84532. ✆ **435/259-4469.** Fax 435/259-4483. www.moabvalleyrv.com. 134 sites. $19–$30 for 2 people. MC, V. Closed Nov–Feb. Dogs permitted in RV sites, but not in tent sites or cabins.

WHERE TO DINE

In addition to the restaurants discussed here, see the Bar-M Chuckwagon and Canyonlands by Night & Day, under "Moab After Dark," below.

Buck's Grill House AMERICAN WESTERN This popular restaurant, among the area's best places for steak, also offers a number of other choices to suit a variety of palates. The dining room's subdued Western decor is accented by exposed wood beams and Western and scenic paintings by local artists. There's a delightful patio out back, with a rock wall, shade trees, and a waterfall, for peaceful alfresco dining. Especially good is the grilled 12-ounce New York strip steak, either plain or rubbed with "cowboy" spices. We also recommend the buffalo meatloaf, with black onion gravy and mashed potatoes. Southwestern dishes include duck tamale with grilled pineapple salsa. Buck's offers full liquor service and a good wine list, and serves a variety of Utah microbrews.

1393 N. U.S. 191, about 1½ miles north of town. ✆ **435/259-5201.** Main courses $6.95–$25. DISC, MC, V. Daily 5:30pm–closing.

Center Cafe CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN Not really a cafe at all, this excellent little restaurant—with white tablecloths, a stone fireplace, rich wood colors, and a bright, contemporary look—is the place to come for innovative seafood selections, plus a variety of seasonal meat, pasta, and vegetarian dishes. Try the cedar-planked salmon with an applewood-smoked bacon-shallot crust, or pan-fried red snapper with tomato-basil crab salad. We also recommend the grilled venison rack with huckleberry demi glace and hazelnut wild rice. The restaurant's "small bites" menu offers lighter fare, such as burgers or red beans and rice. There's also patio dining, and full liquor service is available.

60 N. 100 West. ✆ **435/259-4295.** www.centercafemoab.com. Dinner reservations recommended. Main courses $14–$28. DISC, MC, V. Daily 5:30pm–closing (time varies). Closed Dec to early Feb.

Eddie McStiff's AMERICAN This bustling, noisy brewpub is half family restaurant and half tavern, with a climate-controlled garden patio as well. You'll find Southwest decor in the dining room, while the tavern looks just as a tavern should—long bar, low light, and lots of wood. The menu includes a good variety of charbroiled meats, excellent pizzas, and a variety of pasta dishes. Specialties here include grilled wild Alaskan salmon and slow-smoked barbecue ribs. About a dozen fresh-brewed beers are on tap. Mixed drinks, wine, and beer are sold in the dining room with food only; beer can be purchased with or without food in the tavern. (You must be at least 21 to enter the tavern.)

57 S. Main St. (in McStiff's Plaza, just south of the information center). ✆ **435/259-2337.** www.eddiemcstiff.com. Main courses $4.75–$18. DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 5pm–midnight; Sat–Sun noon–midnight.

Moab Brewery ECLECTIC Fresh ales brewed on-site, along with a wide variety of steaks, sandwiches, salads, soups, vegetarian dishes, and assorted house specialties, are served at this open, spacious microbrewery and restaurant on the south side of town. It's popular with families, who gobble down basic American fare such as burgers, fresh fish, and the popular St. Louis smoked ribs. The huge dining room is decorated with light woods, outdoor sports equipment—including a hang glider on the ceiling—and local artwork. Patio dining is available. You can sample the brews—from wheat ale to oatmeal stout—at the separate bar. The brewery usually has about half a dozen of its beers on tap at any given time. There's a gift shop plus beer-to-go in half-gallon jugs in insulated carriers. Beer is sold in the bar; in the restaurant, diners can purchase beer, wine, or mixed drinks.

686 S. Main St. ✆ **435/259-6333.** www.themoabbrewery.com. Main courses $5.95–$17. AE, DISC, MC, V. Summer daily 11:30am–10pm; winter daily 11:30am–9pm.

Moab Diner *Kids* AMERICAN/SOUTHWESTERN Late risers can get breakfast—among the best in town—all day here, featuring the usual egg dishes, biscuits and gravy, and a spicy breakfast burrito. The decor is definitely diner, but the place does have lots of green plants (real, not plastic). Hamburgers, sandwiches, and salads are the offerings at lunch. For dinner, there's steak, shrimp, and chicken, plus liver and onions. In addition to ice cream, you can get malts and shakes, plus sundaes with seven different toppings. No alcoholic beverages are served.

189 S. Main St. (2 blocks south of Center St.). ✆ **435/259-4006.** Main courses $4.25–$17. MC, V. Daily 6am–10pm. Closed New Year's, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

MOAB AFTER DARK

For a small town in conservative, nondrinking Utah, this is a pretty wild place. After a day on the river or in the back of a jeep, don't be surprised to see your outfitter letting his or her hair down at **Eddie McStiff's** (p. 290), a microbrewery that's part family restaurant and part busy tavern, with several TVs and a game room with pool tables, foosball, and shuffleboard. Another good option for beer-lovers is the **Moab Brewery** (above). The **Poplar Place Restaurant & Pub,** 11 E. 100 North (✆ **435/259-6018**), is a longtime local watering hole known for its pizza and Guinness Stout on tap.

Those looking for a foot-stompin' good time and a Western-style dinner will want to make their way to the **Bar-M Chuckwagon Live Western Show and Cowboy Supper,** 7 miles north of Moab on U.S. 191 (✆ **800/214-2085** or 435/259-2276; www.barmchuckwagon.com). The Bar M has an indoor, climate-controlled dining room, and diners go through a supper line to pick up sliced roast beef or barbecued chicken, baked potatoes, baked beans, cinnamon applesauce, buttermilk biscuits, dessert, and nonalcoholic beverages. Vegetarian meals can be prepared with advance notice, and beer and wine coolers are available. After dinner, a stage show entertains with Western-style music, jokes, and down-home silliness from the Bar-M Wranglers. The grounds, which include a small Western village and gift shop, open at 6:30pm, with gunfights starting at 7pm, dinner at 7:30pm, and the show following supper. The Bar-M is usually open from spring to early fall, but closed Sundays and Tuesdays; call for the current schedule. Supper and show cost $23 for adults, $12 for children 4 to 10. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Canyonlands by Night & Day (✆ **800/394-9978** or 435/259-2628; www.canyonlandsbynight.com) offers a variety of excursions in the area, including an

evening river trip, operating spring through fall, that combines a sunset boat ride with stories of outlaws, rock formations, and a sound-and-light show against the backdrop of the canyon walls. Dutch-oven dinners in a covered patio, with live country-western entertainment, precede the boat trip. The office and dock are just north of Moab at the Colorado River Bridge. Cost for the boat trip and dinner is $50 for adults and $36 for children 4 to 12. Reservations are recommended.

2 Arches National Park

233 miles SE of Salt Lake City

Natural stone arches and fantastic rock formations, which look as if they were sculpted by an artist's hand, are the defining features of this park, and they exist in remarkable numbers and variety. Just as soon as you've seen the most beautiful, most colorful, most gigantic stone arch you can imagine, walk around the next bend and there's another—bigger, better, and more brilliant than the last. It would take forever to see them all, with more than 2,000 officially listed and more being discovered or "born" every day.

Exploring the park is a great family adventure. The arches seem more accessible and less forbidding than the spires and pinnacles at Canyonlands and other southern Utah parks. Just down the road from Canyonlands National Park, Arches is much more visitor-friendly, with relatively short, well-maintained trails leading to most of the park's major attractions.

Some people think of arches as bridges, but to geologists there's a big difference. Bridges are formed when a river slowly bores through solid rock. The often bizarre and beautiful contours of arches result from the erosive force of rain and snow, which freezes and thaws, dissolving the "glue" that holds the sand grains together and chipping away at the stone, until gravity finally pulls a chunk off.

Although arches usually grow slowly—*very* slowly—something dramatic happens every once in a while: like that quiet day in 1940 when a sudden crash instantly doubled the size of the opening of Skyline Arch, leaving a huge boulder lying in its shadow. Luckily, no one (at least no one we know of) was standing underneath it at the time. The same thing happened to the magnificently delicate Landscape Arch in 1991, when a slab of rock about 60 feet long, 11 feet wide, and 4½ feet thick fell from the underside of the arch. Now there's such a thin ribbon of stone that it's hard to believe it can continue standing at all.

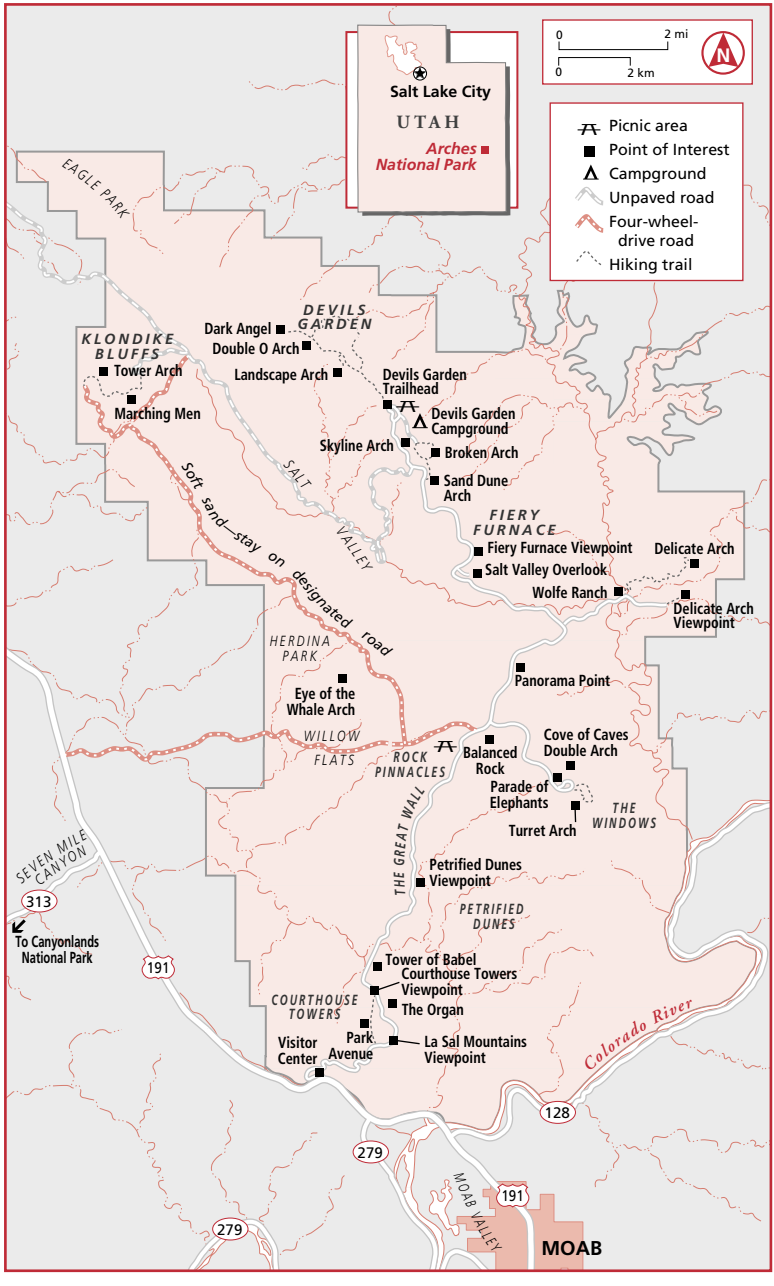
Spend a day or a week here, exploring the terrain, watching the rainbow of colors deepen and explode with the long rays of the setting sun, and gazing at the moonlight glistening on the tall sandstone cliffs. Watch for mule deer, cottontail rabbits, and the bright green collared lizard as they go about the difficult task of desert living. And let your own imagination run wild among the Three Gossips, the Spectacles, the Eye of the Whale, the Penguins, the Tower of Babel, and the thousands of other statues, towers, arches, and bridges that await your discovery in this magical playground.

ESSENTIALS

See the Moab section of this chapter for camping options outside the park, plus lodging, restaurants, and other nearby services.

GETTING THERE From Moab, drive 5 miles north on U.S. 191. Arches is located 27 miles east of Canyonlands National Park's Island in the Sky Visitor Center,

Arches National Park



233 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, 404 miles northeast of the north rim of Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, and 371 miles west of Denver, Colorado.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTERS For advance information, contact **Arches National Park,** P.O. Box 907, Moab, UT 84532-0907 (✆ **435/719-2299;** www.nps.gov/arch).

Books, maps, and videos on Arches as well as Canyonlands National Park and other southern Utah attractions can be purchased from the nonprofit **Canyonlands Natural History Association,** 3031 S. U.S. 191, Moab, UT 84532 (✆ **800/840-8978** or 435/259-6003; www.cnha.org). Some publications are available in foreign languages, and a variety of videos can be purchased in DVD and videotape (either VHS or PAL) formats.

The new **Arches National Park Visitor Center,** completed in the summer of 2005, is just inside the entrance gate. It offers maps, brochures, and other information, and a museum explains arch formation and other features of the park. Be sure to take time to watch the orientation film, *Secrets of Red Rock,* shown in the auditorium. The visitor center is open 8am to 4:30pm in winter, with extended hours spring through fall.

FEES, REGULATIONS & BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS Entry for up to 7 days costs $10 per private vehicle or $5 per person on foot, motorcycle, or bike. A $25 annual pass is also available; it's good for Arches and Canyonlands national parks as well as Natural Bridges and Hovenweep national monuments. Campsites cost $10 per night. Required permits for overnight trips into the backcountry, available at the visitor center, are free.

Backcountry hikers should practice minimum-impact techniques, packing out all trash. Feeding or otherwise disturbing wildlife is prohibited, as is vandalizing or disturbing any natural, cultural, or historic feature of the park. Wood fires are not permitted. Dogs, which must be leashed at all times, are prohibited in public buildings, on all trails, and in the backcountry.

SEASONS/AVOIDING THE CROWDS Summer days here are hot, often reaching 100°F (38°C), and winters can be cool or cold, dropping below freezing at night, with snow possible. The best time to visit, especially for hikers, is in spring or fall, when daytime temperatures are usually between 60° and 80°F (16°–27°C) and nights are cool.

Visitation to Arches is highest from March through October, with August the peak month. Parking lots are crowded and the campground is often full by late morning. As with most popular parks, avoid visiting during school vacations if possible.

RANGER PROGRAMS From March through October, rangers lead guided hikes on the Fiery Furnace Trail twice daily (see "Outdoor Pursuits," later in the chapter), as well as daily nature walks at various park locations. Evening campfire programs, from April through October, are held on topics such as rock art, geological processes, and wildlife. A schedule of events is posted at the visitor center.

Kids between the ages of 6 and 12 can pick up a **Junior Ranger** booklet at the visitor center. After completing the activities in the booklet and participating in several programs, kids pick up their badge at the visitor center.

SEEING THE PARK'S HIGHLIGHTS BY CAR

Arches is the easiest of Utah's national parks to see in a day, if that's all you can spare. An 18-mile (one-way) **scenic drive** offers splendid views of countless natural rock arches and other formations, and several easy hikes reveal additional scenery. Allow 1½ hours for the round-trip drive, adding time for optional hikes.

You can see many of the park's most famous rock formations without even getting out of your car—although we strongly urge you to venture out and explore on foot. You have the option of walking short distances to a number of viewpoints, or stretching your legs on a variety of longer hikes along the way (see "Outdoor Pursuits," below). The main road is easy to navigate, even for RVs, but parking at some viewpoints is limited. Please be considerate and leave trailers at the visitor center parking lot or in a Moab campground.

Start out by viewing the short slide show at the **visitor center** to get a feel for what lies ahead. Then drive north past the Moab Fault to the overlook parking for **Park Avenue,** a solid rock "fin" that reminded early visitors of the New York skyline.

From here, your next stop is **La Sal Mountain Viewpoint,** where you look southeast to the La Sal Mountains, named by early Spanish explorers who thought the snow-covered mountains looked like huge piles of salt. In the overlook area is a "desert scrub" ecosystem, composed of sagebrush, saltbush, blackbrush, yucca, and prickly pear cactus. Animals that inhabit the area include the kangaroo rat, black-tailed jackrabbit, rock squirrel, several species of lizards, and the coyote.

Continuing on the scenic drive, you'll begin to see some of the park's major formations at **Courthouse Towers,** where large monoliths such as Sheep Rock, the Organ, and the Three Gossips dominate the landscape. Leaving Courthouse Towers, watch for the **Tower of Babel** on the east (right) side of the road, then proceed past the petrified sand dunes to **Balanced Rock,** a huge boulder weighing about 3,600 tons, perched on a slowly eroding pedestal.

Continuing, take a side road to the east (right) to **The Windows.** Created when erosion penetrated a sandstone fin, they can be seen after a short walk from the parking area. Also in this area are **Turret Arch** and the **Cove of Caves.** Erosion is continuing to wear away at the back of the largest cave, which means it will probably become an arch one day. A short walk from the parking lot takes you to **Double Arch,** which looks exactly like what its name implies. From the end of this trail, you can also see the delightful **Parade of Elephants.**

Return to the main park road, turn north (right) and drive to **Panorama Point,** which offers an expansive view of Salt Valley and the Fiery Furnace, which can really live up to its name at sunset.

Next, turn east (right) off the main road onto the Wolfe Ranch Road and drive to the **Wolfe Ranch** parking area. A very short walk leads to what's left of this ranch. John Wesley Wolfe and his son Fred moved here from Ohio in 1898, and in 1907 were joined by John's daughter Flora, her husband, and their children. The cabin seen here was built for Flora's family (John's cabin was destroyed by a flash flood). In 1910, the family decided this was not the greatest location for a ranch, and they packed up and returned to Ohio. If you follow the trail a bit farther, you'll see some Ute petroglyphs.

More ambitious hikers can continue for a moderately difficult 3-mile round-trip excursion to **Delicate Arch,** with a spectacular view at trail's end. If you don't want to take the hike, you can still see this lovely arch, albeit from a distance, by getting back in your car, continuing down the road for 1 mile, and walking a short trail (about a 5-min. walk) to the **Delicate Arch Viewpoint.**

Returning to the park's main road, turn north (right) and go to the next stop, the **Salt Valley Overlook.** The various shades of color in this collapsed salt dome are caused by differing amounts of iron in the rock, as well as other factors.

Impressions

Ten thousand strangely carved forms in every direction, and beyond them mountains blending with clouds.

—Major John Wesley Powell, 1869

Continue to the vantage point for **Fiery Furnace,** which offers a dramatic view of colorful sandstone fins. This is where 2-hour ranger-guided hikes begin in the summer.

From here, drive to a pull-out for **Sand Dune Arch,** located down a short path from the road, where you'll find shade and sand along with the arch. This is a good place for kids to play. The trail leads across a meadow to Broken Arch (which isn't broken at all—it just looks that way from a distance).

Back on the road, continue to **Skyline Arch,** whose opening doubled in size in 1940 when a huge boulder tumbled out of it. The next and final stop is the often crowded parking area for the **Devils Garden Trailhead.** From here, you can hike to some of the most unique arches in the park, including **Landscape Arch,** which is among the longest natural rock spans in the world. It's a pretty easy 1.6-mile round-trip hike.

From the trail head parking lot, it's 18 miles back to the visitor center.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

BIKING Bikes are prohibited on all trails and are not allowed to travel cross-country within the national park boundaries. The park's established scenic drive is open to cyclists, although you need to be aware that the 18-mile dead-end road is narrow and winding in spots and can be a bit crowded with motor vehicles in summer.

Mountain bikers also have the option of tackling one of several four-wheel-drive roads (see below). For guided mountain-bike trips outside the park, as well as rentals, repairs, and supplies, see the Moab section earlier in this chapter.

FOUR-WHEELING There aren't nearly as many four-wheel-drive opportunities here as in nearby Canyonlands National Park, but there are a few—check first with rangers on possible road closures and conditions that make the routes impassable.

One possibility is the 17-mile **Klondike Bluffs to Willow Flats Road** ★★, which is best driven from north to south due to soft sand on steep grades. Turn west off the main park road 1 mile south of Devils Garden Trailhead, and follow the road up through the Salt Valley about 7⅗ miles to the turnoff for Klondike Bluffs. The next 17 miles of high desert terrain, with panoramas of surrounding mountains and red-rock formations, are strictly for four-wheelers. The route also passes Eye of the Whale Arch, views of Elephant Butte (the highest point in the park at 5,653 ft.), and the imposing Courthouse Towers. You'll see drifting sand dunes and the red-rock Marching Men formation as well. The road brings you out at Balanced Rock parking area.

You can rent a four-wheel-drive vehicle or go with a jeep tour; see the Moab section, earlier in this chapter.

HIKING Most trails here are short and relatively easy, although because of the hot summer sun and lack of shade, it's wise to carry a good amount of water on any jaunt of more than 1 hour.

One easy walk is to **Sand Dune Arch,** a good place to take kids who want to play in the sand. It's only .3 miles (round-trip), but you can add an extra 1.2 miles by continuing

on to Broken Arch. Sand Dune Arch is hidden among and shaded by rock walls, with a naturally created giant sandbox below the arch. Resist the temptation to climb onto the arch and jump down into the sand: Not only is it dangerous, but it can also damage the arch. Those who continue to Broken Arch should watch for mule deer and kit foxes, which inhabit the grassland you'll be crossing. Allow about 30 minutes to Sand Dune Arch and back; 1 hour to Broken Arch.

From the **Devils Garden Trail,** you can see about 15 to 20 arches on a fairly long, strenuous, and difficult hike, or view some exciting scenery by following only part of the route. We suggest taking at least the easy-to-moderate 1.6-mile round-trip hike to **Landscape Arch** ★, a long, thin ribbon of stone that's one of the most beautiful arches in the park. Watch for mule deer along the way, and allow about an hour. Past Landscape Arch, the trail becomes more challenging, but offers numerous additional views, including panoramas of the curious Double O Arch and a large, dark tower known as Dark Angel. From the section of the trail where Dark Angel is visible, you are 2.5 miles from the trail head. If you turn back at this point, the round-trip will take about 3 hours.

Considered by many to be the park's best and most scenic hike, the 3-mile round-trip **Delicate Arch Trail** ★ is a moderate-to-difficult hike, with slippery slickrock, no shade, and some steep drop-offs along a narrow cliff. Hikers are rewarded with a dramatic and spectacular view of Delicate Arch. You'll see the John Wesley Wolfe ranch and have an opportunity to take a side trip to a Ute petroglyph panel that includes drawings of horses and what may represent a bighorn sheep hunt. When you get back on the main trail, watch for collared lizards—up to a foot long—which are usually bright green with stripes of yellow or rust, with a black collar. Collared lizards feed in the daytime, mostly on insects and other lizards, and can stand and run on their large hind feet in pursuit of prey. (Didn't we see this in *Jurassic Park?*)

Continuing along the trail, watch for **Frame Arch,** off to the right. Its main claim to fame is that numerous photographers have used it to "frame" a photo of Delicate Arch in the distance. Just past Frame Arch, the trail gets a little weird, having been blasted out from the cliff. Allow 2 to 3 hours.

The **Fiery Furnace Guided Hike** is a strenuous 2-mile round-trip naturalist-led hike to some of the most colorful formations in the park. Guided hikes are given into this restricted area twice daily from mid-March through October, by reservation. Cost is $8 per adult, $4 per child from 6 to 12, and free for children under 6. The hikes, which last from 2¼ to 3 hours, are often booked 2 to 3 days in advance, and reservations can be made in person up to 7 days in advance. As you hike along, a ranger describes the desert plants, points out hard-to-find arches, and discusses the geology and natural history of the Fiery Furnace. Permits are required to enter the Fiery Furnace on your own ($2 adults, $1 children 6–12), but special restrictions apply and there are no marked trails, so you must first speak with a ranger at the visitor center. Unless you're an experienced hiker, it's best to join a guided hike.

CAMPING IN THE PARK

Devils Garden Campground, at the north end of the park's scenic drive, is Arches' only developed camping area. The 52 well-spaced sites are nestled among rocks, with plenty of piñon and juniper trees. March through October, the campground accepts reservations for some sites through **National Recreation Reservation Service** (✆ **877/444-6777;** www.reserveusa.com), with an extra $9 booking fee. In summer, the campground

fills early, often by 9am, with people trying to garner the first-come, first-served sites, so either make reservations or get to the campground early. Sites costs $10 per night. No showers or RV hookups are available. See the Moab section earlier in this chapter for information on public showers and nearby commercial campgrounds.

3 Canyonlands National Park

34 miles W of Moab, 304 miles SE of Salt Lake City

Utah's largest national park is not for the sightseer out for a Sunday afternoon drive. Instead, it rewards those willing to spend time and energy—*lots* of energy—exploring the rugged backcountry. Sliced into districts by the Colorado and Green rivers, which are the park's primary architects, this is a land of extremes: vast panoramas, dizzyingly deep canyons, dramatically steep cliffs, broad mesas, and towering red spires.

The most accessible part of Canyonlands is the **Island in the Sky District,** in the northern section of the park, where a paved road leads to sites such as Grand View Point, which overlooks some 10,000 square miles of rugged wilderness. Island in the Sky has several easy-to-moderate trails offering sweeping vistas. A short walk provides views of Upheaval Dome, which resembles a large volcanic crater but may actually have been created by the crash of a meteorite. For the more adventurous, the 100-mile White Rim Road takes experienced mountain bikers and those with high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles on a winding loop tour through a vast array of scenery.

The **Needles District,** in the southeast corner, offers only a few viewpoints along the paved road, but boasts numerous possibilities for hikers, backpackers, and those with high-clearance 4×4s. Named for its tall, red-and-white-striped rock pinnacles, this diverse district is home to impressive arches, including the 150-foot-tall Angel Arch, as well as grassy meadows and the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers. Backcountry visitors will also find ruins and rock art left by the Ancestral Puebloans (also known as Anasazi) some 800 years ago.

Most park visitors don't get a close-up view of the **Maze District,** but instead see it off in the distance from Grand View Point at Island in the Sky or Confluence Overlook in the Needles District. That's because it's inhospitable and practically inaccessible. You'll need a lot of endurance and at least several days to see even a few of its sites, such as the appropriately named Lizard Rock and Beehive Arch. Hardy hikers can visit Horseshoe Canyon in 1 day, where they can see the Great Gallery, an 80-foot-long rock art panel.

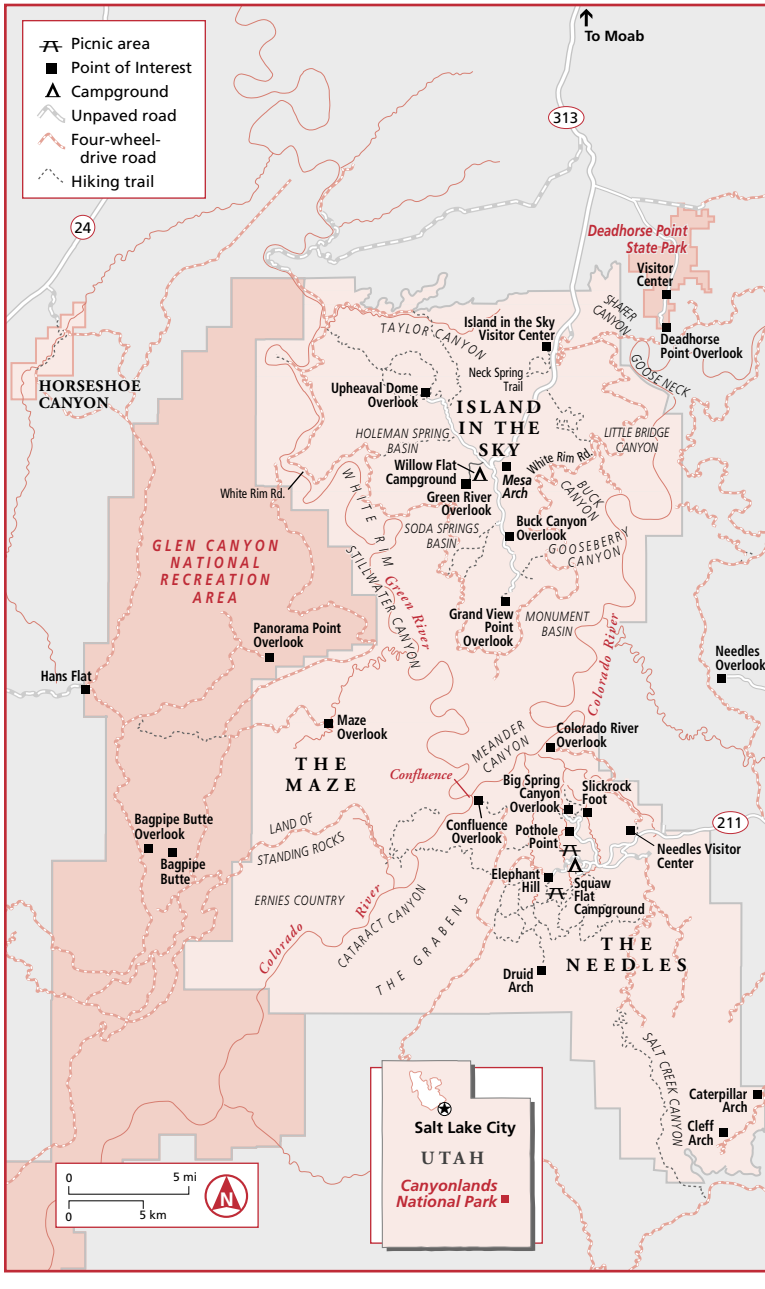
The park is also accessible by boat, which is how explorer Major John Wesley Powell first saw the canyons in 1869, when he made his first trip down the Green to its confluence with the Colorado, and then even farther downstream, eventually reaching the Grand Canyon. River access is from the towns of Moab and Green River; several local companies offer boat trips (see the Moab section earlier in this chapter).

Among the cottonwoods and willows along the rivers, you'll find Canyonlands' greatest variety of wildlife. Watch for deer, beaver, an occasional bobcat, and various migratory birds. Elsewhere in the park, you're apt to see red-tailed hawks in search of a tasty rodent, as well as bighorn sheep, coyotes, Colorado chipmunks, and white-tailed antelope squirrels.

ESSENTIALS

No lodging facilities, restaurants, or stores are located inside the national park. Most visitors use Moab as a base camp.

Canyonlands National Park



GETTING THERE/ACCESS POINTS To reach the Island in the Sky Visitor Center, 34 miles west of Moab, take U.S. 191 north to Utah 313, which you follow south into the park. To reach the Needles Visitor Center, 75 miles southwest of Moab, take U.S. 191 south to Utah 211, which you follow west into the park. Getting to the Maze District is a bit trickier: From I-70 west of Green River, take Utah 24 south. Watch for signs and follow two- and four-wheel-drive dirt roads east into the park.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTERS Contact **Canyonlands National Park,** 2282 SW Resource Blvd., Moab, UT 84532 (✆ **435/719-2313;** www.nps.gov/cany). Books, maps, and videos can be purchased from the nonprofit **Canyonlands Natural History Association,** 3031 S. U.S. 191, Moab, UT 84532 (✆ **800/840-8978** or 435/259-6003; www.cnha.org). Some publications are available in foreign languages, and many videos are available in DVD and videotape (either VHS or PAL) formats.

Canyonlands National Park operates two visitor centers—**Island in the Sky Visitor Center,** in the northern part of the park, and **Needles Visitor Center,** in the southern section—where you can get maps, free brochures on hiking trails, and, most important, advice from rangers. We can't overemphasize how brutal the terrain at Canyonlands can be, and it's important to know not only your own limitations, but also the limitations of your vehicle and other equipment. Visitor center hours are 8am to 4:30pm, with extended summer hours.

FEES, REGULATIONS & BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS Entry into the park (for up to 7 days) costs $10 per private vehicle or $5 per person on foot, bike, or motorcycle. The camping fee at Squaw Flat Campground in the Needles District is $10; camping at Willow Flat Campground in the Island in the Sky District costs $5.

Backcountry permits, available at either visitor center, are required for all overnight stays in the park, except at the two established campgrounds. Permit reservations can be made in advance (✆ **435/259-4351;** www.nps.gov/cany/reserve.htm). Permits for overnight four-wheel-drive and mountain-bike trips are $30, while those for overnight backpacking trips are $15. The permit for white-water boating through Cataract Canyon is $30; flat-water boating costs $20.

There is also a $5 day-use fee for those visitors bringing motor vehicles, horses, or mountain bikes on roads into Salt Creek/Horse Canyon and Lavender Canyon in the Needles District.

Backcountry hikers should practice minimum-impact techniques, packing out all trash. Feeding or disturbing wildlife is prohibited, as is vandalizing or upsetting any natural, cultural, or historic feature of the park. Wood fires are also prohibited.

Dogs, which must be leashed at all times, are prohibited in public buildings, on all trails, and in the backcountry (even in vehicles on four-wheel-drive roads).

SEASONS/AVOIDING THE CROWDS Summers here are hot, with temperatures occasionally reaching 100°F (38°C). Winters can be cool or cold, dropping well below freezing at night, with light snow possible. The best time to visit, especially for hikers, is in spring or fall, when daytime temperatures are usually from 60° to 80°F (16°–27°C) and nights are cool. Late-summer and early-fall visitors should be prepared for afternoon thunderstorms.

Although Canyonlands does not get nearly as crowded as most other national parks in Utah, summer is still the busiest time, and reservations for backcountry permits are recommended from spring through fall. As with most parks, if you want to escape humanity, pick the longest and most difficult trail you can handle.

SAFETY Due to the extreme variety of terrain, the main safety problem at Canyonlands is that people underestimate the hazards. Rangers warn hikers to carry at least 1 gallon of water per person per day, be especially careful near cliff edges, avoid overexposure to the intense sun, and carry maps when going into the backcountry. During lightning storms, avoid lone trees, high ridges, and cliff edges. Four-wheel-drive vehicle operators should be aware of their vehicle's limitations and carry extra food and emergency equipment. Anyone heading out into the backcountry should let someone know where they're going and when they plan to return. Traveling alone in Canyonlands is not a good idea.

RANGER PROGRAMS On summer evenings at Squaw Flat and Willow Flat campgrounds, rangers offer campfire programs on various aspects of the park. Short morning talks are also presented in summer at the Island in the Sky Visitor Center and at Grand View Point.

SEEING THE HIGHLIGHTS

Canyonlands is not an easy place to see in a short period of time. In fact, if your schedule permits only a day or less, we suggest skipping the Needles and Maze Districts entirely and driving directly to the **Island in the Sky Visitor Center.** After looking at the exhibits, drive to several of the overlooks, stopping along the way for a short hike or two. Make sure you stop at the **Grand View Point Overlook,** at the south end of the paved road. Hiking the **Grand View Trail,** which is especially scenic in the late afternoon, literally gives you the "Grand View" of the park. Allow about 1½ hours for this easy 2-mile walk. We also recommend the **Upheaval Dome Overlook Trail,** which should take about half an hour and will bring you to a mile-wide crater of mysterious origins.

Perhaps a better choice for a quick visit to the park, especially for those with a bit of extra cash, is taking a guided tour—by four-wheel-drive vehicle, plane, or raft. See the Moab section earlier in this chapter for a list of operators.

EXPLORING CANYONLANDS BY CAR

No driving tour has yet been designed to show off Canyonlands. The Island in the Sky District has about 20 miles of paved highway, some gravel roads accessible to two-wheel-drive vehicles, and several viewpoints. The Needles District has only 8 miles of paved roads and fewer viewpoints. Many (but not all) of Needles' viewpoints and trail heads are accessible only by high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles, mountain bikes, or plain old foot power. The Maze District has no paved roads. Essentially, both of the park's main roads lead to trail heads, and unless you plan to leave your car and hike for at least a half-hour or so, it would be better to skip Canyonlands and spend your time at nearby Arches National Park, which is much more accessible by car.

Moments A Bird's-Eye View of Canyonlands

Canyonlands is beautiful, but many of its most spectacular sections are difficult to get to. **Slickrock Air Guides, Inc.** (✆ **866/259-1626** or 435/259-6216; www.slickrockairguides.com) offers 1-hour scenic flights over Canyonlands National Park and nearby areas for $110 per person and 2½-hour flights that take in Canyonlands and Monument Valley for $215 per person.

Of course, if your "car" happens to be a serious 4×4, and you're equally serious about doing some hard-core four-wheeling, this is the park for you (see "Outdoor Pursuits," below). Due to the constantly changing conditions of the dirt roads, we strongly suggest that you discuss your plans with rangers before setting out.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

BIKING & MOUNTAIN BIKING Bikes of any kind are prohibited on hiking trails or in the backcountry, except on designated two- and four-wheel-drive roads. Road bikes are of little use, except for getting to and from trail heads, viewpoints, visitor centers, and campgrounds in the Island in the Sky and Needles Districts.

Mountain bikers will find themselves sharing four-wheel-drive roads with motor vehicles of every size, plus occasional hikers and horseback riders. Because some of the four-wheel-drive roads have deep sand in spots—which can turn into quicksand when wet—mountain biking may not be as much fun here as you'd expect, although it certainly is a challenge. It's wise to ask rangers about current conditions on specific roads before setting out. Roads that are popular with mountain bikers include the Elephant Hill and Colorado River Overlook jeep roads, both in the Needles District. The 100-mile White Rim Road, in the Island in the Sky District, also makes a great mountain-bike trip, especially for bikers who can arrange for an accompanying 4×4 vehicle to carry water, food, and camping gear (see "Four-Wheeling," below).

FOUR-WHEELING Unlike most national parks, where all motor vehicles and mountain bikes must stay on paved roads, Canyonlands has miles of rough four-wheel-drive roads where mechanized transport is king, and jacked-up jeeps with oversize tires rule the day. Four-wheelers must stay on designated 4×4 roads, but keep in mind that the term "road" can mean anything from a graded, well-marked, two-lane gravel byway to a pile of loose rocks with a sign that says "that-a-way." Many of the park's jeep roads are impassable during heavy rains and for a day or two after.

The best four-wheel-drive adventure in the Island in the Sky District is the **White Rim Road** ★★, which winds some 100 miles through the district and affords spectacular views, from broad panoramas of rock and canyon to close-ups of red and orange towers and buttes. A high-clearance 4×4 is necessary. Expect the journey to be slow, taking 2 to 3 days, although with the appropriate vehicle, it isn't really difficult. There are primitive campgrounds along the way, but reservations and backcountry permits are needed (see "Essentials," above). Mountain bikers also enjoy this trail, especially when accompanying a four-wheel-drive vehicle that can carry supplies and equipment.

Four-wheeling in the Needles District can be an end in itself, with a variety of exciting routes, or simply a means to get to some of the more interesting and remote hiking trails and camping spots. Four-wheel-drive fans will find an ultimate challenge on the **Elephant Hill Jeep Road,** which begins at a well-marked turnoff near Squaw Flat Campground. Although most of the 10-mile trail is only moderately difficult, the stretch over Elephant Hill itself (near the beginning of the drive) can be a nightmare, with steep, rough slickrock, drifting sand, loose rock, and treacherous ledges. Coming down the hill, you'll reach one switchback that requires you to back to the edge of a steep cliff. This road is also a favorite of mountain bikers, although bikes will have to be walked on some stretches because of the abundance of sand and rocks. The route offers views of numerous rock formations, from striped needles to balanced rocks, plus panoramas of steep cliffs and rock "stairs"; side trips can add another 30 miles. Allow from 8 hours to 3 days. Backcountry permits are needed for overnight trips.

For a spectacular view of the Colorado River, the **Colorado River Overlook Road** can't be beat. This 14-mile round-trip is popular with four-wheelers, backpackers, and mountain bikers. Considered among the park's easiest 4×4 roads, the first part is very easy indeed, accessible by high-clearance two-wheel-drives, but the second half has rough and rocky sections that require four-wheel-drive. Starting at the Needles Visitor Center parking lot, the road takes you past numerous panoramic vistas to a spectacular 360-degree view of the park and the Colorado River, some 1,000 feet below.

HIKING With little shade, no reliable water sources, and temperatures soaring to 100°F (38°C) in summer, rangers strongly advise that hikers carry at least a gallon of water per person per day, along with sunscreen, a hat, and all the usual hiking and emergency equipment. If you expect to do some serious hiking, try to plan your trip for the spring or fall, when conditions are much more hospitable. Because some of the trails may be confusing, hikers attempting the longer ones should carry good topographic maps, available at park visitor centers and at stores in Moab. Although the park offers dozens of hiking possibilities, we've chosen a select few of various ability requirements, listed by district.

Horseshoe Canyon This detached section of the park was added to Canyonlands in 1971 mainly because of its **Great Gallery** ★★★, an 80-foot-long rock art panel with larger-than-life human figures, believed to be at least several thousand years old. Only one road leads into the Horseshoe Canyon Unit, and you'll have to drive some 120 miles (one-way) from Moab and then hike 6.5 miles (round-trip) to see the rock art. To get to the area by two-wheel-drive vehicle, take I-70 west from Green River about 11 miles to U.S. 24, go south about 24 miles to the Horseshoe Canyon turnoff (near the WATCH FOR SAND DRIFTS sign), turn left, and follow this maintained dirt road for about 30 miles to the canyon's west rim, where you can park. From here, it's a 1.5-mile hike down an 800-foot slope to the canyon floor, where you turn right and go 1.75 miles to the Great Gallery. There's no camping in Horseshoe Canyon, but primitive camping is available on BLM property on the rim just outside the park boundary.

Island in the Sky The **Mesa Arch Trail** provides the casual visitor with an easy .5-mile (round-trip) self-guided nature walk through an area forested with piñon and juniper trees, mountain mahogany, cactus, and a plant called Mormon tea, from which Mormon pioneers made a tealike beverage. The loop trail's main scenic attraction is an arch, made of Navajo sandstone, that hangs precariously on the edge of a cliff, framing a spectacular view of nearby mountains. Allow about a half-hour.

Another half-hour hike, although a bit steeper and moderately strenuous, leads to the **Upheaval Dome Overlook.** Upheaval Dome doesn't fit with the rest of the Canyonlands terrain—it's obviously not the result of gradual erosion like the rest of the park, but rather a dramatic deformity in which rocks have been pushed into a domelike structure. At one time, it was believed that the dome was formed by a hidden volcano, but a more recent theory suggests that a meteorite may have struck the earth here some 60 million years ago. This hike is about 1 mile round-trip; a second overlook adds about .5-mile and 15 minutes.

An easy 2-mile hike, especially scenic at sunset, is the **Grand View Trail** ★, which follows the canyon rim from Grand View Point and shows off numerous canyons and rock formations, the Colorado River, and distant mountains. Allow about 1½ hours.

A bit more strenuous is the 5-mile **Neck Spring Trail,** which starts .5-mile south of the Island in the Sky Visitor Center. Allow 3 to 4 hours for this hike, which follows the

paths that animals and early ranchers created to reach water at two springs. You'll see water troughs, hitching posts, rusty cans, and the ruins of an old cabin. Because of the water source, you'll encounter types of vegetation not usually seen in the park, such as maidenhair ferns and gambel oak, and wildlife such as mule deer, bighorn sheep, ground squirrels, and hummingbirds. If you climb to the top of the rim, you'll get a beautiful view of the canyons and even the Henry Mountains, some 60 miles away.

Those looking for more of a challenge can explore the **Lathrop Trail,** which meanders some 5 miles down into the canyon to the White Rim Road, affording beautiful views as you descend. Allow 5 to 7 hours for this strenuous hike over steep terrain and loose rock, remembering that it's another 5 miles back. It's possible to continue down to the Colorado River from here (another 4 miles each way), but check with rangers about the feasibility of this overnight trip before attempting it.

Needles Trails here are generally not too tough, but keep in mind that slickrock can live up to its name, and that you'll find little shade in this area. One relatively easy hike is the **Roadside Ruin Trail,** a short (.3-mile), self-guided nature walk that takes about a half-hour round-trip and leads to a prehistoric granary, probably used by the Ancestral Puebloans some 700 to 1,000 years ago to store corn, nuts, and other foods. Although easy, this trail can be muddy when wet.

For a bit more of a challenge, try the **Slickrock Foot Trail,** a 2.4-mile loop that leads to several viewpoints and takes 2 or 3 hours. Slickrock—a general term for any bare rock surface—can be slippery, especially when wet. Viewpoints show off the stair-step topography of the area, from its colorful canyons and cliffs to its flat mesas and striped needles.

From **Elephant Hill Trailhead,** you can follow several interconnecting trails into the backcountry. The road to the trail head is gravel, but is graded and driveable in most two-wheel-drive passenger cars; those in large vehicles such as motor homes, however, will want to avoid it. The 11-mile round-trip **Elephant Hill–Druid Arch hike** ★ can be accomplished in 4 to 6 hours and is moderately difficult, with some steep drop-offs and quite a bit of slickrock. But the views are well worth it, as you hike through narrow rock canyons, past colorful spires and pinnacles, and on to the huge Druid Arch, its dark rock somewhat resembling the stone structures at Stonehenge.

The **Confluence Overlook Trail,** an 11-mile round-trip day or overnight hike, leads to a spectacular bird's-eye view of the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers and the 1,000-foot-deep gorges they've carved. The hike is moderately difficult, with steep drop-offs and little shade, but it splendidly reveals the many colors of the Needles District, as well as views into the Maze District of the park. Allow 4 to 6 hours.

For those staying at Squaw Flat Campground, the **Big Spring–Squaw Canyon Loop** is a convenient, moderately difficult 7.5-mile loop over steep slickrock. This trail can be hiked in 3 to 4 hours. The trail winds through woodlands of piñon and juniper, plus nearby cliffs and mesas as well as distant mountains. Watch for wildflowers from late spring through summer.

CAMPING

There are two campgrounds in the park, both open year-round. In the Island in the Sky District, **Willow Flat Campground** (elevation 6,200 ft.) has 12 sites, picnic tables, fire grates, and vault toilets; camping is $5. In the Needles District, **Squaw Flat Campground** (elevation 5,100 ft.) has 26 sites, fire grates, picnic tables, flush toilets, and year-round drinking water; the fee is $10 per night. Neither campground accepts

reservations. Primitive campsites are also available throughout the park for four-wheelers and backpackers (permits required; see "Essentials," earlier in this chapter).

Near Island in the Sky, the campground at **Dead Horse Point State Park** has electric hookups (see "Nearby Places of Interest," below). Additional camping facilities are available on nearby public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service; commercial campgrounds and public showers are located in Moab (see the Moab section, earlier in this chapter).

NEARBY PLACES OF INTEREST

DEAD HORSE POINT STATE PARK

One of Utah's most scenic state parks, Dead Horse might be considered a mini-Canyonlands. The Dead Horse Point Overlook offers a splendid view across the river to the nearby national park, as well as down past seven distinctive and colorful layers of rock to the Colorado River. A strip of land only 30 yards wide connects the point with the rest of the mesa, and in the late 1800s, this natural corral was used by cowboys who herded wild horses in, roped all they wanted, and left the rest to find their way out.

From Canyonlands' Island in the Sky Visitor Center, drive north out of the park for 3½ miles to the intersection with Utah 313, and turn right. The state park's visitor center is about 7½ miles down the road. From Moab, head north on U.S. 191 for 17 miles, and turn south on Utah 313 for about 20 miles to the park (passing the access road for Canyonlands National Park).

For information, contact **Dead Horse Point State Park,** P.O. Box 609, Moab, UT 84532-0609 (✆ **435/259-2614;** www.stateparks.utah.gov).

The **visitor center/museum** is near the entrance to the park, with exhibits on the park's geology, history, plants, and animals. Rangers are on hand to assign campsites and answer questions; books, posters, maps, and souvenirs are available for purchase. A video presentation on the human and geologic history of the area is shown by request; in summer, nightly campfire programs and short guided walks are scheduled.

Day-use fee is $7 per vehicle. In addition to the usual regulations requiring vehicles and bikes to stay on roads and pets to be leashed, visitors are asked to conserve water (which has to be trucked in) and to avoid stepping on cyanobacterial crusts—the fragile, bumpy, black mats composed of bacteria, algae, lichen, moss, and fungi that you'll often see along trails and roads.

CAMPING The park's attractive campground has 21 sites, all with electric hookups and covered picnic tables, plus flush toilets and an RV dump station. However, because water must be trucked in, there are no showers, and campers are asked to conserve the small amount of water available. Because the electric outlets are hidden on the underside of picnic tables, which may be 50 or 60 feet from the site parking area, those with recreational vehicles will likely need long extension cords. Camping costs $14; reservations are accepted from March through October with a $7 processing fee (✆ **800/322-3770** or 801/322-3770; www.stateparks.utah.gov). Those without reservations will find that the grounds usually fill by mid-afternoon in summer.

EXPLORING THE PARK **Dead Horse Point Overlook** is about 2 miles from the visitor center via a paved road. A short, wheelchair-accessible paved walkway leads from the parking area to a platform overlook that provides a magnificent panoramic view of the deep red canyons, the Colorado River, and distant mountains. The light is best either early or late in the day, but this is a worthwhile stop at any time.

Although you can easily drive to Dead Horse Point Overlook, it's a fun hike if you have the time. The main trail starts at the visitor center, follows the east rim of the mesa to the overlook, and returns on the west side. The fairly easy loop is 4 miles; you can add another 3 miles in side trips out to overlook points. Along the way, you'll see a variety of rock formations while scrambling over the slickrock.

Another 3.5-mile loop leads from the visitor center to a series of potholes (holes in the rock that catch rainwater and may contain tadpole shrimp and other aquatic life) and a canyon overlook.

Although it would seem at first that no animals could endure this barren, rocky terrain, you're likely to see ground squirrels, rabbits, lizards, and raptors. There are desert bighorn sheep in the area, but they're rarely seen in the park.

NEWSPAPER ROCK

This site is famous for a large sandstone panel covered with petroglyphs that date from 1,500 to 200 years ago, created by a long line of humans, from the Fremont people to the Ancestral Puebloans to the Utes and Navajo. The panel also includes initials and names left by early European-American settlers, including one J. P. Gonzales of Monticello, who herded sheep in the canyon in the early 1900s. Administered by the Bureau of Land Management's **Monticello Field Office,** 435 N. Main St., P.O. Box 7, Monticello, UT 84535 (✆ **435/587-1500;** www.blm.gov/utah/monticello), the site is located in Indian Creek Corridor, along the road to Canyonlands' Needles District, Utah 211. Camping is free at a primitive campground just across the road from Newspaper Rock, with dispersed camping for about eight tents or small RVs, but no drinking water. Vault toilets are located at Newspaper Rock.

4 North & West of the Parks

GREEN RIVER

Travelers heading north to Salt Lake City or west toward Nevada will undoubtedly pass through the village of Green River, which sits at an elevation of 4,100 feet, on I-70 along the banks of the Green River, about 54 miles northwest of Moab.

The **John Wesley Powell River History Museum,** 885 E. Main St. (P.O. Box 620), Green River, UT 84525 (✆ **435/564-3427;** www.jwprhm.com), details the phenomenal river expedition of explorer John Wesley Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran who explored the Green and Colorado rivers in the late 1800s. Museum exhibits also discuss the geology of the region and the history of river running, from a replica of Powell's heavy wooden boat, the *Emma Dean,* to examples of boats and rafts used on the river since then. New in 2005, a 25-minute film brings Powell's adventures to life, with showings throughout the day. Admission is $2 per person, $1 for those under 18, or $5 per family. The museum is open daily 8am to 8pm in summer and 8am to 5pm in winter. You can also get information on other Green River area attractions, activities, and lodging at the museum.

Green River State Park, on Green River Road, P.O. Box 637, Green River, UT 84525-0637 (✆ **435/564-3633;** www.stateparks.utah.gov), is a lush green oasis with big old Russian olive and cottonwood trees. There's a **boat ramp** for launching your raft or canoe, but be aware that once you start heading downstream, you'll need a motor or mighty powerful arms to fight the current back to the park. The park also has a 9-hole championship **golf course** (✆ **435/564-8882**). Situated right along the river, it's open year-round (weather permitting) and has a pro shop, snacks, and carts. Fees

are $9 for 9 holes and $16 for 18. Day-use park entry costs $5 per vehicle. The shady 42-site **campground,** open year-round, has modern restrooms, hot showers, and a dump station, but no RV hookups. Camping costs $14; reservations are accepted from March through October with a $7 nonrefundable fee (✆ **800/322-3770**).

Several river-running companies offer day and overnight trips on the Green. These include **Moki Mac River Expeditions, Inc.** (✆ **800/284-7280;** www.mokimac.com), which offers several trips on the Colorado and Green rivers. A day trip through Gray Canyon of the Green River costs $59 for adults and $49 for children 15 and under, including lunch. Multi-day trips start at $630 per adult and $420 per child 15 and under for a 3-day excursion, including all gear and food. The outfitter also rents canoes at $17 per day, including life jackets and paddles for two persons.

A MAGICAL STATE PARK

Goblin Valley State Park, P.O. Box 637, Green River, UT 84525-0637 (✆ **435/564-3633;** www.stateparks.utah.gov), is filled with fantasyland rock formations, hence its name. In the light of the full moon, the little munchkins almost come alive, with shadows giving them facelike features. Bikes and motor vehicles are restricted to paved areas, but visitors are welcome to hike among the goblins, and even to climb onto them with caution. Park residents include kit foxes, rabbits, and lizards.

The 21-site **campground** is laid out in a semicircle among tall multicolored rocks of varying heights. Facilities include showers and a dump station, but no RV hookups. Day-use fee is $5 per vehicle; camping is $14; reservations are accepted from March through November with a $7 nonrefundable fee (✆ **800/322-3770**).

To get here from Green River, head west on I-70 for about 10 miles to exit 149, and turn south on Utah 24 for about 25 miles to the turnoff for the park. Go about 5 miles west on a paved road, then left on a dirt road for another 7 miles—this road is very rough, resembling an unending washboard, although plans to pave it are being made.

TO THE DINOSAURS OF PRICE & BEYOND

The town of Price, founded in 1879, began as a railroad and coal-mining center. A popular midway stopover for those traveling between southern Utah's national parks and the Salt Lake City area, Price is gaining in reputation as a destination, especially for those interested in dinosaurs.

Price (elevation 5,600 ft.) is 119 miles from Moab and 63 miles from the town of Green River. From I-70 exit 157, follow U.S. 191/6 northwest 57 miles. Take the business loop through the center of town and follow signs to the information center, located in the CEU Prehistoric Museum (see below), to pick up maps and brochures on the area, including a walking-tour brochure to the town's seven buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For advance information, contact **Castle Country Travel Region,** 90 N. 100 East, #2, Price, UT 84501 (✆ **800/842-0789** or 435/637-3009; www.castlecountry.com).

Lodging options in Price, both off U.S. 6 exit 240, include the **Best Western Carriage House Inn,** 590 E. Main St., Price, UT 84501 (✆ **800/937-8376** or 435/637-5660), with rates for two of $69 to $99; and the **Super 8,** 180 N. Hospital Dr., Price, UT 84501 (✆ **800/800-8000** or 435/637-8088), at $46 to $66 for a double.

One of the area's top attractions is the excellent **CEU Prehistoric Museum** ★★, 200 E. 100 North (✆ **800/817-9949** or 435/613-5111; http://museum.ceu.edu), operated by the College of Eastern Utah. Among the exhibits are the huge skeletons of an allosaurus, a Utah raptor, and a strange-looking duck-billed dinosaur known as

the prosaurolophus. Watch for the large Colombian mammoth, with its long tusks, which resembles a modern elephant and roamed this area over 10,000 years ago. You'll also see exhibits on the early American Indians of Utah—describing how they lived and adapted to changing environments—and displays of rare 1,000-year-old clay figures created by the Fremont people. Children will encounter a variety of interactive exhibits designed just for them, including a sandbox where they can do their own paleontological dig. The museum is open April through September, daily from 9am to 6pm, and October through March, Monday through Saturday from 9am to 6pm. Closed major holidays. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

To see more dinosaurs, you'll have to drive about 35 miles out of town. Designated a National Natural Landmark in 1966, the **Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry** is a major world source of dinosaur fossils, where more than 70 dinosaurs left their bones. The visitor center, which will be renovated and expanded in spring of 2006, has a complete allosaurus skeletal reconstruction and a stegosaurus wall mount on display. At the quarry itself—enclosed in two metal buildings—you can see bones in place where they were found from several viewing areas, and sometimes watch scientists at work. There are also three easy-to-moderate trails, totaling about 5 miles. These include a 1.5-mile loop interpretative trail, with a descriptive brochure available at the trail head, a 1.25-mile round-trip scenic trail to a viewpoint, and a one-way trail of over a mile that branches off the scenic trail and leads to another viewpoint. Drinking water, restrooms, and picnic tables are available. From early March to Memorial Day and from Labor Day to the end of October, the quarry is open 10am to 5pm Friday and Saturday and noon to 5pm Sunday. From Memorial Day through Labor Day it's open 10am to 5pm Monday through Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5pm. User fees in 2005 were $3 for adults and $2 for youths 6 to 17; kids under 6 admitted free. Those fees, however, were expected to change in 2006; call for current rates. For advance information, contact the Bureau of Land Management office in Price (✆ **435/636-3600;** www.blm.gov/utah/price/quarry.htm). To get here from Price, take Utah 10 southwest about 15 miles to Utah 155 south, following dinosaur signs another 20 miles to the quarry. The last 13 miles are on a gravel road; allow about 1 hour from Price.

For a look at the somewhat more recent history of the area, go north of Price 11 miles on U.S. 191/6 to the town of Helper, and follow signs to the **Western Mining and Railroad Museum,** 296 S. Main St. (✆ **435/472-3009;** www.wmrrm.org). Crammed into the four stories of the old Helper Hotel, built in 1913, are thousands of objects and exhibits illustrating the area's mining and railroad days of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Highlights include a complete jail cell, a simulated coal mine, mine models, wine- and whiskey-making equipment from Prohibition days, pictures of mine disasters, railroad equipment and photos, relics from outlaw Butch Cassidy's exploits in the area, and operating model trains. You can watch a 12-minute video on the area's history, wander past the early mining equipment, caboose, and railroad snowplow in the outdoor displays, and browse the gift shop. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, 10am to 5pm, from early May through September; Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 4pm, the rest of the year. Admission is free, although suggested donations are $2 per person or $5 per family.

A NEARBY STATE PARK

Scofield State Park, P.O. Box 166, Price, UT 84501-0166 (✆ **435/448-9449** summer only; www.stateparks.utah.gov), about 35 miles northwest of Price, is Utah's highest state park, at 7,600 feet. The park's picturesque lake, nestled among the hills, offers fishing and boating in summer; in winter, the main draws are ice-fishing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. There are two developed campgrounds: One at the north end of the lake, with few trees, has modern restrooms but no showers; the other, located a few miles south on the east side of the lake and overlooking it, has aspens at almost every site, as well as showers and a boat ramp. Both have dump stations but neither has an RV hookup. It's a lovely place to camp in summer—nights are always comfortably cool at this elevation. Day-use fee is $6 per vehicle; camping costs $11 to $14; reservations (✆ **800/322-3770**) are accepted from mid-May to mid-September with a $7 nonrefundable fee. Park facilities are closed December through April, but the lake is accessible. To get to Scofield State Park from Price, head northwest on U.S. 6 for 25 miles, then turn left (west) onto Utah 6 for 10 miles.

16

The Four Corners Area

The Four Corners area—where the borders of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah meet—is a major U.S. archaeological center (see map of Southeast Utah, p. 279). A vast complex of ancient villages dominated this entire region a thousand years ago. Among the red-brown rocks, abandoned canyons, and flat mesas, you'll find another world, once ruled by the Ancestral Puebloans (also known as the Anasazi), and today largely the domain of the Navajo.

Wander among the scenic splendors of Monument Valley, where you'll see Navajo people tending their sheep and weaving rugs, and trace the history of a civilization that vanished more than 7 centuries ago, leaving behind more questions than answers. Those particularly interested in the ancient and modern American Indian tribes of the region will want to continue their travels into Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. Frommer's guidebooks to those states can provide additional information.

The southeast corner of Utah is sparsely populated—downright desolate and deserted, some might say—and you're not going to find your favorite chain motel, fast-food restaurant, or brand of gasoline right around every corner. That's assuming you can even *find* a corner. So, many travelers discover a place they like, rent a room or campsite for a few days, and take day trips. We've laid out this chapter using the town of Bluff as a base; from here, we'll take you on a series of excursions to areas that ring the town. First, we'll head southwest to Monument Valley and then northwest to Natural Bridges National Monument. We'll then head east, to Hovenweep National Monument and Four Corners Monument. Finally, we'll venture into Colorado, where we'll visit Mesa Verde National Park, site of the most impressive cliff dwellings in the United States.

1 A Base Camp in Bluff

100 miles S of Moab, 338 miles SE of Salt Lake City

We particularly enjoy the tiny and very friendly village of Bluff, which sits near the intersection of U.S. 191 and U.S. 163, with roads leading off toward all the attractions of the Four Corners. With a population of about 300, Bluff (elevation 4,320 ft.) is one of those comfortable little places with most basic services, but not a lot more. Founded by Mormon pioneers in 1880, the town's site had already been home to both Ancestral Puebloan and Navajo peoples. Local businesses distribute a free historic walking- and biking-tour guide that shows where ancient rock art and archaeological sites are located, as well as pointing out the locations of some of Bluff's handsome stone homes and other historic sites from the late 19th century.

For information on Bluff contact **The Business Owners of Bluff,** P.O. Box 220, Bluff, UT 84512 (www.bluff-utah.org). You can also get information on Bluff, as well on the other southeast Utah communities of Blanding, Monticello, Mexican Hat, and

Monument Valley, from **Utah's Canyon Country,** 117 S. Main St. (P.O. Box 490), Monticello, UT 84535 (✆ **800/574-4386** or 435/587-3235; www.utahscanyoncountry.com). There is no visitor center in Bluff.

WHITE-WATER RAFTING & OTHER ORGANIZED TOURS

Situated along the San Juan River, Bluff is a center for river rafting. **Wild Rivers Expeditions,** Box 118, Bluff, UT 84512 (✆ **800/422-7654** or 435/672-2244; fax 435/672-2365; www.riversandruins.com), offers river trips on the San Juan that are both fun and educational. Led by archaeology and geology professionals, boaters see dozens of American Indian sites along the river, such as the spectacular Butler Wash Petroglyph Panel—a 250-yard-long wall of petroglyphs—plus spectacular rock formations. Trips, offered from March through October, range from a full day to more than a week, with rates starting at $125 per adult and $75 per child 12 or younger, including lunch.

Guided tours into Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park and other scenic areas and archaeological sites are offered by **Far Out Expeditions,** 7th East Street and Mulberry Avenue (P.O. Box 307), Bluff, UT 84512 (✆ **435/672-2294;** www.faroutexpeditions.com). Prices start at $105 for a full-day Monument Valley tour in an air-conditioned four-wheel-drive van, including lunch. Especially popular with photographers, the Mystery Valley trip ($105 including lunch) visits a seldom-seen section of Monument Valley where you'll see Ancestral Puebloan ruins and delightful rock art. The company also offers custom backcountry tours ranging from a half-day to several days, where you'll see archaeological sites including cliff dwellings and dramatic rock art panels. Prices start at $70 per person (for three or more people) for a half-day. Far Out Expeditions also offers lodging (p. 312) plus a shuttle service for backpackers and river runners (call for rates).

Note that both of the above companies also collect per-person user fees charged by the Bureau of Land Management.

MORE TO SEE & DO

About 2¼ miles west of town is **Sand Island Recreation Site,** operated by the BLM. Located along the San Juan River among cottonwoods, Russian olives, and salt cedar, this area offers boating (there's a boat ramp) and fishing. Boaters must obtain river permits in advance, and because there are usually more people wanting permits than there are permits available, a lottery is held to determine who gets the permits. Fees are charged, based on the time of year, section of river, and number of people in your party. As early as possible, preferably in December for the following summer, contact the Bureau of Land Management, 435 N. Main St. (P.O. Box 7), Monticello, UT 84535 (✆ **435/587-1500,** or 435/587-1544 8am–noon weekdays for permit applications; www.blm.gov/utah/monticello). Between the river and a high rock bluff are picnic tables, vault toilets, and graveled campsites; camping is $10 per night. West of the boat launch are a number of petroglyphs, some of which can be seen easily on foot and others which require a boat to see. Unfortunately, you must have your own boat, as there are no nearby boat rentals.

Goosenecks State Park, set on a rim high above the San Juan, offers spectacular views out over the twisting, turning river some 1,000 feet below. It's named for the sharp turns in the river, which meanders more than 5 miles to progress just 1 linear mile, and provides a look straight down through 300 million years of geologic history. You'll find picnic tables, trash cans, vault toilets, and an observation shelter, but no

drinking water, in a gravelly open area at the end of the paved road. The park is open round-the-clock and admission is free; primitive camping is permitted at no charge. The park is about 24 miles from Bluff, just off the route to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. Head west on U.S. 163 for about 20 miles, turn north (right) on Utah 261 for about a mile, and then west (left) on Utah 316 for 2½ miles. For information, contact Goosenecks State Park, 600 W. 400 North, Blanding, UT 84511 (✆ **435/678-2238;** www.stateparks.utah.gov).

WHERE TO STAY

Lodging tax adds 9% to room bills in Bluff.

Among our choices for a good night's rest is the handsome **Desert Rose Inn** ★★, 701 W. Main St. (U.S. 191) (✆ **888/475-7673** or 435/672-2303; fax 435/672-2217; www.desertroseinn.com). Built in 1999, this imposing log lodge-style building houses 30 attractively decorated motel rooms, all with air-conditioning, TVs, phones, coffeemakers, combination tub/showers, and queen-size or king-size beds. Decor is Southwestern, with log headboards, pottery-style lamps, solid-wood furnishings, and signed prints by a Hopi artist. There is also an attractive suite with a wraparound porch, king-size bed, and separate living room. In addition there are five pleasant cabins, a bit more rustic in appearance, each with a large walk-in shower (no tubs), two queen-size beds, refrigerators and microwaves, knotty pine walls and ceilings, porches, and cathedral ceilings with exposed beams. Rates for two people are $74 to $94 in summer, $54 to $74 November through March, and $125 year-round for the suite. Smoking is not permitted; pets are not accepted.

This property may be a bit older—actually it's a lot older—but we especially like the quiet, clean, and inexpensive rooms at the 28-unit **Recapture Lodge** ★, U.S. 191 (P.O. Box 309), Bluff, UT 84512-0309 (✆ **435/672-2281;** fax 435/672-2284; www.recapturelodge.com). This well-kept motel, located on the main street near the center of town, has an attractive Western decor and a nature trail that follows the San Juan River along the back of the property. Rooms contain combination tub/showers, evaporative cooling, and TVs (but no phones); several budget units, with shower only and one double bed, are also available. Guests enjoy the heated pool and Jacuzzi. Rates for two range from $46 to $56 in summer and $36 to $44 the rest of the year. Pets are welcome.

Another good choice is the **Far Out Guest House,** 7th East Street and Mulberry Avenue (P.O. Box 307), Bluff, UT 84512 (✆ **435/672-2294;** www.faroutexpeditions.com). This restored historic home has two bedrooms, decorated in Southwestern style, with artwork and photos depicting scenes of the area. Each room has six bunk beds and a private bathroom (shower only). Both share a comfortable living room, screened porch, and fully equipped kitchen. Rates are $65 for a private room for one or two people, $75 for three or four people, $85 for five or six people, and $160 for the entire house. Smoking and pets are not permitted. The house is operated by Far Out Expeditions, which offers guided tours of the region (p. 311) and provides cookouts and catering for groups of six or more (call for details).

Campgrounds include **Cadillac Ranch RV Park,** U.S. 191 (P.O. Box 157), Bluff, UT 84512 (✆ **800/538-6195** or 435/672-2262), a down-home sort of place on the east side of town with sites around a small fishing lake, where there's no license needed and no extra charge for fishing. There are 20 RV sites—all large pull-throughs—and 10 tent sites plus restrooms with showers. The campground is open year-round, but

water is turned off in winter. Cost per site is $16 for tents and $18 to $19 for RVs; paddle boats can be rented at $4 per half-hour.

WHERE TO DINE

The **Cottonwood Steakhouse** ★★, on U.S. 191 on the west side of town (✆ **435/672-2282**), is an Old West–style restaurant—lots of wood and a handsome stone fireplace—that knows what to do with beef and buffalo. The solid fare includes a lean rib-eye buffalo steak plus T-bone and rib-eye beefsteaks, barbecued chicken or ribs, shrimp, and catfish, accompanied by large salads, Western-grilled potatoes, and beans. In warm weather, diners can sit at picnic tables outside under cottonwood trees. Dinners are $11 to $22; a child's plate costs $7.95. The restaurant is open daily from 5:30pm from March through October.

For a wide range of tasty bites throughout the day, do what the locals do and stop by the **Twin Rocks Cafe** ★, on U.S. 191 on the east end of town (✆ **435/672-2341;** www.twinrocks.com). In the shadow of the prominent Twin Rocks formation, the cafe has an open, airy dining room with large windows offering views of the surrounding red-rock walls. The American and Southwest selections range from half-pound burgers to barbecue plates to vegetarian specialties. There's also a variety of sandwiches, New York strip steak, and grilled lemon herb chicken. But the most popular items by far are the regional dishes—the sheepherder's sandwich, Navajo taco, and beef stew with Navajo fry bread, a thick deep-fried bread. You can also mix your cultures with a Navajo pizza—a variety of toppings served on Navajo fry bread. Breakfast items include the standard pancakes and egg dishes, plus granola and a spicy breakfast burrito. Lunch and dinner entrees are $6.50 to $17. For those who insist on staring at the Internet instead of the area's beautiful red rocks, two computers are available. The cafe is open daily from 7am to 9pm in summer, with slightly reduced hours in winter. Microbrewed and other beers are available with meals. While you're there, be sure to check out the museum-quality American Indian arts and crafts at Twin Rocks Trading Post, under the same management, next door.

2 Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park

50 miles SW of Bluff, 150 miles S of Moab, 395 miles S of Salt Lake City, 160 miles W of Cortez, Colorado

You've seen Monument Valley's majestic stone towers, delicately carved arches, lonely windswept buttes, forbidding cliffs, and mesas covered in sagebrush. You may have seen the proud Navajo gazing out across her land, herding sheep, or weaving a beautiful rug. Perhaps you didn't know you were looking at Monument Valley, instead believing it to be Tombstone, Arizona; or Dodge City, Kansas; or New Mexico; or Colorado. And possibly you couldn't fully appreciate the deep reddish-brown colors of the rocks or incredible blue of the sky, which lost a bit of their brilliance in black and white.

For most of us, Monument Valley *is* the Old West. We've seen it dozens of times in movie theaters, on television, and in magazine and billboard advertisements. This all started in 1938, when Harry Goulding, who had been operating a trading post for local Navajo for about 15 years, convinced Hollywood director John Ford that Ford's current project, *Stagecoach,* should be shot in Monument Valley. Released the following year, *Stagecoach* not only put Monument Valley on the map, but also launched the career of a little-known actor by the name of John Wayne.

Ford and other Hollywood directors were attracted to Monument Valley then by the same elements that draw visitors today. This is the genuine, untamed American West, with a simple, unspoiled beauty of carved stone, blowing sand, and rich colors, all compliments of nature. The same erosional forces of wind and water carved the surrounding scenic wonders of the Grand Canyon, Glen Canyon, and the rest of the spectacular red-rock country of southern Utah and northern Arizona. But here the result is different: Colors seem deeper, natural rock bridges are almost perfect circles, and the vast emptiness of the land around them gives the towering stone monoliths an unequaled sense of drama.

ESSENTIALS

Operated as a tribal park by the Navajo Nation (the country's largest tribe), Monument Valley (elevation 4,500 ft.) straddles the border of southeast Utah and northeast Arizona. U.S. 163 goes through the valley from north to south, and a tribal park access road runs east to west.

GETTING THERE From Moab, Monticello, and most points in eastern Utah, take U.S. 191 south to Bluff, turn west (right), and follow U.S. 163 to Monument Valley. An alternative is to turn off Utah 95 south onto Utah 261 just east of Natural Bridges National Monument, follow Utah 261 to U.S. 163, turn southwest, and follow U.S. 163 to Monument Valley. This latter route is quite scenic, but because of switchbacks and steep grades it is not recommended for motor homes or vehicles with trailers. Those coming from Arizona can take east-west U.S. 160 to U.S. 163, turn north, and follow it into Monument Valley.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER Contact **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park,** P.O. Box 360289, Monument Valley, UT 84536 (✆ **435/727-5870**), or the **Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department,** P.O. Box 2520, Window Rock, AZ 86515 (✆ **928/871-6647;** www.navajonationparks.org).

The **visitor center/museum** is located about 4 miles east of U.S. 163 on the Monument Valley access road. It contains a viewing deck, exhibits on the geology and human history of the valley, restrooms, drinking water, a gift shop, and a restaurant that serves Navajo and American dishes for all three meals daily.

HOURS, FEES & REGULATIONS The tribal park is open daily, April through September from 7am to 7pm and October through March from 8am to 5pm (closed Christmas plus the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day).

Admission is $5, free for children under 10. The park is operated by the Navajo Nation and not the U.S. government, and National Park passes are not accepted.

Because the park is part of the Navajo Nation, laws here differ somewhat from those in Utah, in Arizona, or on public lands. All alcoholic beverages are prohibited within the boundaries of the Navajo reservation. Visitors must stay on the self-guided Valley Drive unless accompanied by an approved guide, and rock climbing and cross-country hiking are prohibited. Although photography for personal use is permitted, permission is required to photograph Navajo residents and their property, and you will usually need to pay them.

Both Utah and Arizona are on Mountain Time, and although the state of Arizona does not recognize daylight saving time, the Navajo Nation does.

EXPLORING MONUMENT VALLEY BY CAR

Driving the 17-mile self-guided loop lets you see most of the major scenic attractions of Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park at your own pace, and at the lowest cost. The

dirt road is a bit rough—not recommended for low-slung sports cars or vehicles longer than 24 feet, although it is passable for smaller motor homes. The road's first half-mile is the worst, and you have to drive it both at the beginning and end of the loop. There are no restrooms, drinking water, or other facilities along the route, and motorists should watch for livestock. Allow about 2 hours.

A free brochure and a more detailed booklet ($1) provide rough maps and information on 11 numbered sites, such as The Mittens—rock formations that resemble (you guessed it) a pair of mittens—and the aptly named Elephant and Camel Buttes, Totem Pole, and The Thumb. You'll also see Yei-Bi-Chei, a rock formation that resembles a Navajo holy man, and John Ford Point, one of famed Hollywood director John Ford's favorite filming locations, where he shot scenes from *Stagecoach, The Searchers,* and *Cheyenne Autumn.* It's still popular with producers—watch for crews working on feature films, TV shows, or commercials.

GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours are the best way to see Monument Valley—without a guide, visitors are restricted to the 17-mile scenic drive, but **Navajo guides** ★ can take you into lesser-visited areas of the tribal park, give you their personal perspectives on the landscape, and often arrange weaving demonstrations and other activities. Inquire at the visitor center for the types of tours currently available.

Tours are also available from **Goulding's** (see below), with rates of $35 for a 2½-hour tour; $45 for a 3½-hour tour; and $70 for a full-day tour that includes lunch. There are discounts for children under 8 years old. These prices include the park admission fee. Tours are also available from **Far Out Expeditions** in Bluff (p. 311).

You can also see Monument Valley by horseback with Navajo-owned and operated **Black's Monument Valley Tours** (✆ **928/309-8834** or 435/739-4205; www.blacksmonumentvalleytours.com). Prices are $40 per person for a 90-minute trail ride and $150 per person for a 6-hour ride; riders also have to pay the monument entrance fee.

MORE TO SEE & DO

Goulding's Trading Post Museum, at Goulding's Lodge (see "Accommodations & Dining," below), is the original Monument Valley trading post opened by Harry and Leona (Mike) Goulding in 1924; it served as their home as well as a trading post for many years. Furnished much as it was in the 1920s and 1930s, the museum contains exhibits of Goulding family memorabilia, historic photos of the area, Navajo and Ancestral Puebloan artifacts and crafts, and posters and other items from movies that were filmed at the trading post and in Monument Valley. It's open year-round (call the lodge for hours); a $2 donation is requested, which goes toward scholarships for local children. Allow a half-hour. Nearby, a more modern trading post sells souvenirs, books, videos, and top-quality American Indian arts and crafts.

The **Earth Spirit Multimedia Show,** in Harry and Mike's Theater, next to Goulding's Lodge (p. 316), is a 20-minute show describing the valley's history and the geology of the monoliths, utilizing magnificent photos of the area. It's shown several times nightly year-round and costs $2 (free for those who also take a Monument Valley tour with Goulding's).

CAMPING

Mittenview Campground, operated by the tribal park administration, is across the access road from the tribal park's visitor center/museum, and offers good views of

Monument Valley's rock formations. It has 100 sites with picnic tables and grills. From spring to early fall, it also has restrooms with coin-operated showers and an RV dump station. Campsites cost $10 from spring to early fall and $5 at other times, when the bathhouse and dump station are shut down.

Goulding's Monument Valley Campground, on the Monument Valley access road about 3 miles west of its intersection with U.S. 163 (✆ **435/727-3231;** www.gouldings.com), also offers splendid views, plus full RV hookups including cable television, an indoor heated swimming pool, modern restrooms with showers, a playground, a self-serve laundry, and a large convenience store. The campground is open year-round, but with limited services from November to mid-March. Tent sites cost $18 and RV sites are $28 to $32, with discounts in winter.

WHERE TO STAY & DINE

Goulding's Lodge, P.O. Box 360001, Monument Valley, UT 84536 (✆ **800/874-0902** or 435/727-3231; www.gouldings.com), on the Monument Valley access road about 2 miles west of its intersection with U.S. 163, has 62 modern motel rooms, each with Southwestern decor, cable TV and VCR (John Wayne and other western movies available for rent), air-conditioning, hair dryer, iron and board, coffeemaker, and private patio or balcony. There's a small indoor heated pool and a restaurant serving three meals daily—American cuisine including traditional Navajo dishes, with dinner prices in the $9-to-$22 range. Room rates for two are $170 from June to mid-October, $145 in April and May, and $78 to $118 the rest of the year. Taxes of 17% are added to your bill.

3 Natural Bridges National Monument

60 miles NW of Bluff, 360 miles south of Salt Lake City

Utah's first National Park Service area, Natural Bridges was designated primarily to show off and protect its three outstanding natural rock bridges, carved by streams and other forms of erosion beginning some 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. You can see the bridges from roadside viewpoints, take individual hikes to each one, or hike a loop trail that connects all three.

Giant **Sipapu Bridge** is considered a "mature" bridge. It's 220 feet high, with a span of 268 feet, and is believed to be the second-largest natural bridge in the world, after Rainbow Bridge in nearby Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. **Owachomo Bridge,** which appears to be on the brink of collapse (then again, it could stand for centuries), is the smallest of the three at 106 feet high, with a span of 180 feet. **Kachina Bridge,** 210 feet high with a span of 204 feet, is the thickest of the monument's bridges at 93 feet. All three bridges were given Hopi names: Sipapu means the "gateway to the spirit world" in Hopi legend; Owachomo is Hopi for "rock mound," so called for a rounded sandstone formation atop one side of the bridge; and Kachina was named as such because rock art on the bridge resembles decorations found on traditional Hopi kachina dolls.

ESSENTIALS

Natural Bridges National Monument is about 40 miles west of Blanding, 60 miles northwest of Bluff, 43 miles north of Mexican Hat, and about 50 miles east of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area's Hite or Halls Crossing marinas.

GETTING THERE The national monument is located in southeast Utah, off scenic Utah 95 via Utah 275. From Monument Valley, follow U.S. 163 north to Utah

261 (just past Mexican Hat); at Utah 95, go west to Utah 275 and the Monument. Beware, though: Utah 261, although a very pretty drive, has 10% grades and numerous steep switchbacks. It's not recommended for motor homes, those towing trailers, or anyone who's afraid of heights. The less adventurous and RV-bound should stick to approaching from the east, via Utah 95.

Make sure you have enough fuel for the trip to Natural Bridges; the closest gas stations are at least 40 miles away in Mexican Hat or Blanding. In fact, there are no services of any kind within 40 miles of the Monument.

INFORMATION/VISITOR CENTER For a park brochure and other information, contact **Natural Bridges National Monument,** HC 60 Box 1, Lake Powell, UT 84533-0101 (✆ **435/692-1234;** www.nps.gov/nabr).

A **visitor center** at the park entrance, open daily from 8am to 5pm, has exhibits and a video program on bridge formation, the human history of the area, and the monument's plants and wildlife. Rangers are available to advise you about hiking trails and scheduled activities. The visitor center is the only place in the monument where you can get drinking water.

FEES & REGULATIONS Entry to the monument is $6 per vehicle or $3 per person on foot, bicycle, or motorcycle. Regulations are similar to those in most areas administered by the National Park Service, with an emphasis on protecting the natural resources. Be especially careful not to damage any of the fragile archaeological sites in the monument; climbing on the natural bridges is prohibited. Overnight backpacking is not permitted within the monument, and vehicles may not be left unattended overnight. Because parking at the overlooks and trail heads is limited, anyone towing trailers or extra vehicles is asked to leave them at the visitor center parking lot. Pets must be leashed and are not allowed on trails or in buildings.

SEASONS/AVOIDING THE CROWDS Although the monument is open year-round, winters can be a bit harsh at this 6,500-foot elevation; the weather is best between late April and October. Because trail-head parking is limited and most people visit in June, July, and August, the best months to see the park, if your schedule permits, are May, September, and October.

RANGER PROGRAMS Guided hikes and walks, evening campground programs, and talks at the visitor center patio are presented from spring through fall. Schedules are posted at the visitor center.

SEEING THE HIGHLIGHTS

Natural Bridges National Monument probably won't be your major vacation destination, but you can easily spend a half or full day, or even 2 days, here. For those who

Fun Fact Generating Electricity in the Middle of Nowhere

Isolated virtually in the middle of nowhere, Natural Bridges National Monument has been forced to become self-sufficient. To provide power for the visitor center, offices, and employee housing, photovoltaic cells convert the sun's energy to electricity. You can see the photovoltaic cells, located across the main monument road from the visitor center, and read explanations of how they operate.

want to take a quick look and get on to the other, larger national park lands in southern Utah, stop at the visitor center for a brief introduction, and then take the 9-mile (one-way) loop drive to the various natural bridge overlooks. Those with the time and the inclination might also take an easy hike down to Owachomo Bridge; it's a half-hour walk.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Hiking is the number-one activity here. From the trail heads, you can hike separately to each of the bridges, or start at one and do a loop hike to all three. Be prepared for summer afternoon thunderstorms that can cause flash flooding. Although the possibility of encountering a rattlesnake is very small, you should still watch carefully. During the hot summers, all hikers should wear hats and other protective clothing, use sunscreen, and carry a gallon of water per person for all but the shortest walks.

The easiest hike—more of a walk—leads to **Owachomo Bridge** (.4 mile round-trip), with an elevation gain of 180 feet. Look toward the eastern horizon to see the twin buttes named Bear's Ears. Allow a half-hour.

The Sipapu and Kachina Bridge trails are both considered moderately strenuous—allocate about 1 hour for each. On the trek to **Sipapu Bridge,** you'll have a 500-foot elevation change, climbing two flights of stairs with three ladders and handrails on a 1.2-mile round-trip trail. This is the steepest trail in the park, and you'll have a splendid view of the bridge about halfway down. The hike takes about 1 hour.

The 1.5-mile round-trip hike to massive **Kachina Bridge** has a 400-foot elevation change, descending steep slickrock with handrails. Under the bridge, you'll notice a pile of rocks that fell in June 1992, slightly enlarging the bridge opening. Allow about 1 hour.

Those planning to hike the **loop to all three bridges** can start at any of the trail heads, although rangers recommend starting at Owachomo. The round-trip, including your walk back across the mesa, is 8.6 miles. Although the trails from the rim to the canyon bottom can be steep, the walk along the bottom is easy.

CAMPING

A primitive 13-site campground has pit toilets, tables, tent pads, and fire grates, but no drinking water, showers, or other facilities. It's limited to vehicles no more than 21 feet long, and only one vehicle is allowed per site. Cost is $10; sites are allotted on a first-come, first-served basis.

4 Hovenweep National Monument

35 miles NE of Bluff, 122 miles S of Moab, 366 miles SE of Salt Lake City, 47 miles W of Cortez, Colorado

Located along the Colorado–Utah border, Hovenweep contains six separate sites where you'll see some of the most striking (and most isolated) **archaeological sites** ★★ in the Four Corners area. These include castlelike towers, cliff dwellings, a kiva (a circular underground ceremonial chamber), stone rooms, walls, and petroglyphs. *Hovenweep* is the Ute word for "deserted valley," appropriate because its inhabitants apparently left around 1300.

ESSENTIALS

No lodging, food, gasoline, supplies, or even public phones are available in the national monument. The closest motels and restaurants are in Bluff (p. 312) or Cortez, Colorado.

GETTING THERE/ACCESS POINTS Access is via paved and/or graded dirt roads that become muddy—sometimes impassably so—during and immediately after rainstorms. You can get to Hovenweep's Square Tower Site, where a visitor center is located, from either Colorado or Utah. From Utah, follow U.S. 191, southeastern Utah's major north-south route, to Utah 262, between the towns of Blanding and Bluff. Head east on Utah 262 to Hatch Trading Post; then, watching for signs, follow paved roads to the monument. One option is to take Utah 163 east from Bluff toward the village of Aneth, turn north (left) onto an unnamed paved road, and follow signs to the monument.

From Cortez, Colorado, follow U.S. 491 (formerly U.S. 666) north to the community of Pleasant View and turn west (left) onto dirt and gravel roads, following signs to the monument.

VISITOR INFORMATION For advance information or questions about current road conditions, contact **Hovenweep National Monument,** McElmo Route, Cortez, CO 81321 (✆ **970/562-4282;** www.nps.gov/hove).

FEES, HOURS, REGULATIONS & SAFETY Entry to the national monument is $6 per vehicle or $3 per person. The monument is open 24 hours a day, but trails are open from sunrise to sunset only. The visitor center, with exhibits, restrooms, and drinking water, is open daily from 8am to 5pm.

Regulations are much the same here as at most National Park Service properties, with an emphasis on taking care not to damage archaeological sites. Summer temperatures can reach 100°F (38°C) and water supplies are limited; bring your own and carry a canteen, even on short walks. In late spring, gnats can be a real nuisance, so take insect repellent. Dogs are not permitted on trails.

EXPLORING THE MONUMENT

Hovenweep is noted for its mysterious and impressive 20-foot-tall sandstone towers, some of them square, others oval, circular, or D-shaped. Built by the Ancestral Puebloans (also known as Anasazi), the solid towers have small windows up and down their masonry sides. Archaeologists have suggested a myriad of possible uses for these structures—their guesses range from guard towers to celestial observatories, ceremonial structures to water towers or granaries. In addition to the towers, you'll encounter the remains of cliff dwellings and a kiva, petroglyphs, stone rooms, walls, and a reconstructed dam.

Your walk among the 700-year-old buildings will take you through yucca, cactus, saltbush, juniper, and even some cottonwood trees. Watch for lizards, snakes, rabbits, hawks, ravens, and an occasional deer or fox.

The **Square Tower Site,** where the visitor center is located, should be your first stop. The other five sites are difficult to find, and you'll need to get detailed driving directions and check on current road conditions before setting out.

At the Square Tower Site, the 2-mile **Square Tower self-guided trail** is a loop, the first part of which is paved and suitable for wheelchairs with assistance. The trail winds past the remains of ancient Puebloan buildings, including the impressive **Hovenweep Castle,** probably built around A.D. 1200. Once home to several families, this site contains two D-shaped towers plus additional rooms. A trail guide, based at the visitor center, discusses the ruins and identifies desert plants used for food, clothing, and medicine. Allow about 2 hours.

CAMPING

The 30-site Hovenweep Campground, at the Square Tower Site, is open year-round. It has restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, and fire grills, but no showers or RV hookups. Most sites will accommodate short trailers and motor homes under 25 feet in length. Cost is $10 per night; reservations are not accepted, but the campground rarely fills, even during the peak summer season.

5 Four Corners Monument

This is the only place in the United States where you can stand (or if you prefer, sit) in four states at once. Operated as a Navajo Tribal Park (with the Colorado section owned by the Ute Mountain Tribe), there's a flat monument marking the spot where Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona meet, on which visitors can pose for photos. Official seals of the four states are displayed, along with the motto FOUR STATES HERE MEET IN FREEDOM UNDER GOD. Surrounding the monument are the flags of the four states, the Navajo Nation and Ute tribes, and the United States.

There are often crafts demonstrations here, and jewelry, pottery, sand paintings, and other crafts are for sale, along with T-shirts and other souvenirs. In addition, traditional Navajo food, such as fry bread, is available, and there's a small visitor center with information on visiting the Navajo Nation.

A half-mile northwest of U.S. 160, the monument is open daily from 7am to 8pm from March through August and 8am to 5pm the rest of the year. It's closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Entry costs $3 per person over age 6, free for those 6 and younger. For information, contact the **Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department,** P.O. Box 2520, Window Rock, AZ 86515 (✆ **928/871-6647;** www.navajonationparks.org). Allow a half-hour.

6 East to Colorado and Mesa Verde

The Four Corners region was once a bustling metropolis, the home of the Ancestral Puebloan people (also called Anasazi). The single best place to explore this ancient culture is Mesa Verde National Park.

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

Mesa Verde ★★★ is the largest **archaeological preserve** in the United States, with almost 5,000 known sites dating from A.D. 500 to 1300, including the most impressive cliff dwellings in the Southwest.

The earliest-known inhabitants of Mesa Verde (Spanish for "green table") built subterranean pit houses on the mesa tops. During the 13th century, they moved into shallow alcoves and constructed complex cliff dwellings. These homes were obviously a massive construction project, yet the residents occupied them for only about a century, leaving in about 1300 for reasons as yet undetermined.

The area was little known until ranchers Charlie Mason and Richard Wetherill chanced upon it in 1888. Looting of artifacts followed their discovery until a Denver newspaper reporter's stories aroused national interest in protecting the site. The 52,000-acre site was declared a national park in 1906—it's the only U.S. national park devoted entirely to the works of humans.

Lightning-caused fires blackened over 50% of the park during the summers of 2000, 2002, and 2003, closing it for several weeks. Officials said that although the

park's piñon-juniper forests were severely burned, none of the major archaeological sites were damaged, and in fact the fires revealed some sites that they were not aware existed.

ESSENTIALS

The entrance to Mesa Verde National Park is about 10 miles east of Cortez, Colorado; 56 miles east of Hovenweep National Monument; and 125 miles east of Bluff and 390 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. Entry to the park for up to 7 days costs $10 per vehicle.

For information, contact Mesa Verde National Park, P.O. Box 8, Mesa Verde, CO 81330-0008 (✆ **970/529-4465;** www.nps.gov/meve).

The **Far View Visitor Center,** site of the lodge (described below), restaurant, gift shop, and other facilities, is 15 miles off U.S. 160; it's open from mid-April to mid-October only, from 8am to 5pm daily. **Chapin Mesa,** site of the park headquarters, a museum, and a post office, is 21 miles south of the park entrance on U.S. 160. The **Chapin Mesa Museum,** open daily year-round (8am–6:30pm from mid-April to mid-October, until 5pm the rest of the year), houses artifacts and specimens related to the history of the area, including objects from other nearby sites.

The cliff dwellings can be viewed daily, and in summer rangers give nightly campfire programs. In winter, the Mesa Top Loop Road, Spruce Tree House, and museum remain open, but many other facilities are closed. Food, gas, and lodging are available in the park from May to October only; full interpretive services are available from mid-June to Labor Day.

SEEING THE HIGHLIGHTS

Balcony House, Cliff Palace, and Long House can be seen up close only on ranger-led tours, which are offered only during the warmer months; tickets ($2.75) are available at the visitor center. The **Cliff Palace,** the park's largest and best-known site, is a four-story apartment complex with stepped-back roofs forming porches for the dwellings above. Its towers, walls, and kivas are all set back beneath the rim of a cliff. Climbing a 32-foot ladder permits exploration of **Balcony House,** while **Long House,** on Wetherill Mesa, is the second-largest cliff dwelling at Mesa Verde.

Rangers lead free tours to **Spruce Tree House,** another of the major cliff-dwelling complexes, only in winter, when other park facilities are closed. Visitors can also explore Spruce Tree House on their own at any time.

Although the draw here is ancient cliff dwellings rather than outdoor recreation, you'll find yourself hiking and climbing to reach the sites. None of the trails are strenuous, but the 7,000-foot elevation can make the treks tiring for visitors who aren't accustomed to the altitude. For those who want to avoid hiking and climbing, the 12-mile **Mesa Top Loop Road** makes a number of pit houses and cliffside overlooks easily accessible by car. However, if you'd really like to stretch your legs and get away from the crowds, take one of the longer **hikes** into scenic Spruce Canyon; you must register at the ranger's office before setting out.

CAMPING

Morefield Village, site of Mesa Verde's campground, is 4 miles south of the park entrance. Open from mid-May to mid-October, **Morefield Campground** (✆ **800/449-2288** or 970/533-7731; www.visitmesaverde.com) is operated by Aramark, which also operates the park's lodge and restaurants and offers guided tours (described below). The campground has 435 sites, including 15 with full RV hookups. Facilities

include modern restrooms, coin-operated showers and laundry, a grocery store, a gift shop, a gas station, picnic tables, grills, and an RV dump station. Reservations are accepted for the basic sites ($20 per night), although they are almost never necessary, but reservations are not accepted for the 15 sites with hookups ($25 per night).

WHERE TO STAY & DINE

There is only one lodging facility actually in the park, Far View Lodge (see below), which has two restaurants and a bar. The company that runs the lodge also operates two other restaurants in the park—one near the campground and another near Chapin Mesa Museum. There are also numerous lodging and dining possibilities in nearby Cortez. Stop at the **Colorado Welcome Center at Cortez,** Cortez City Park, 928 E. Main St. (✆ **970/565-4048;** www.swcolo.org), open daily from 8am to 6pm in summer and from 8am to 5pm the rest of the year; or contact the **Mesa Verde Country Visitor Information Bureau,** P.O. Box HH, Cortez, CO 81321 (✆ **800/253-1616;** www.mesaverdecountry.com). Also, see *Frommer's Colorado* (Wiley Publishing, Inc.) for lodging and dining choices in the Cortez area.

Far View Lodge Right in the heart of Mesa Verde National Park, Far View Lodge offers not only the most convenient location for visiting the park, but also the best views of any accommodations in the area. Guests stay in 17 separate buildings spread across a hilltop. Rooms aren't fancy and they're a bit on the small side; but they are well maintained and more than adequate, with Southwestern decor. In fact, many of the units have recently been renovated and upgraded, such as the "Kiva" rooms with handcrafted furniture, one king-size or two queen-size beds, bathrobes, CD players, and other upscale amenities. Most standard rooms have one queen-size bed or two doubles, although a variety of bed combinations are available. For a couple, the rooms with one bed seem less cramped than rooms with two beds. There are no TVs, but each unit has a private balcony, and the panoramic views are magnificent.

There's a 24-hour front desk, complimentary morning coffee and newspaper, and a gift shop. The lodge restaurants serve three meals daily. During the warmer months, half-day guided tours of the park embark from the lodge daily at 9am and 1pm. Rates are $39 for adults, $28 for youths 5 to 17, and free for children under 5.

Mesa Verde National Park (P.O. Box 277), Mancos, CO 81328. ✆ **800/449-2288** or 970/564-4300. Fax 970/564-4311. www.visitmesaverde.com. 150 units. $110–$127 double. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Closed late Oct to late Apr. Pets accepted with a deposit. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants (Southwestern American). *In room:* Fridge (some), coffeemaker.

Appendix: Utah in Depth

Barren wasteland and scenic wonderland, an adventurer's paradise and picture-perfect unspoiled America—this is Utah, a land of extremes, where mountain peaks receive more than 500 inches of snow each winter and desert lowlands bake at well over 115°F (46°C) in summer. Utah is an extraordinarily beautiful place. It has a rugged beauty, with stark stone monoliths alternating with deep red canyons, tall forested mountains standing guard over a huge inland salt sea. Its history is equally colorful, from the prehistoric American Indians to the mountain men, miners, and Mormons. In this appendix, we'll introduce you to modern-day Utah, provide a background of the state's history and the influential Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons), and recommend some excellent books and films to get you started.

1 Utah Today

Some people think Utah is stuck in the 1950s—quaintly or annoyingly so, depending on your perspective. This time warp is due in large part to the strong church influence and the corollary Mormon emphasis on family values, which make Utah a notably family-oriented state. People here are friendly, the crime rate is low, and Utah is generally a very pleasant state to visit.

But don't expect to find a lot of partying or wild nightlife here. Liquor laws and attitudes toward alcohol in Utah are, simply put, archaic. Those of us who enjoy a glass of wine or beer or a mixed drink with lunch or dinner need to choose our restaurants carefully. Outside of Salt Lake City, even some nightspots are dry, like the country-western dance club in Provo that advertises "No cussin', no smokin', no drinkin'!" This isn't universal, of course; in terms of nightlife, Park City can hold its own with any of the top ski resorts in Colorado, and Moab is a fun, wild 'n' crazy kind of place—at least by Utah standards.

Changes are in the wind too as more and more outsiders move to Utah. Expect to see more services, better restaurants, upscale shops, and a greater range of activities.

2 History 101

A walk through Utah is a walk through the American West. You can contemplate the meaning of petroglyphs etched into canyon walls more than a thousand years ago, follow paths tread by Spanish padres hundreds of years ago, seek out the hiding places of famed outlaw Butch Cassidy and raft the same rapids explorer John Wesley Powell did in 1869.

THE FIRST PEOPLES The first known inhabitants were the Desert Gatherers, who, from about 9000 B.C., wandered about the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau searching for food. However, being nomadic, they left little evidence of their time here. The Ancestral Puebloan (also called Anasazi) culture arose in the Four Corners region at about

the time of Christ; by A.D. 1200, their villages were scattered throughout present-day Utah. For some reason—possibly drought—by 1300 the villages had been abandoned, leaving the ruins we see standing today in Hovenweep National Monument and at other sites. The descendants of these early people—Shoshone, Ute, Goshute, and Paiute—were among the American Indians inhabiting the area when the first Europeans arrived.

Another prehistoric group, the Fremont peoples, settled in central Utah, establishing small villages of pit houses. They arrived about A.D. 1200, but had disappeared by the time the first Europeans reached Utah.

Spanish explorer Juan Maria Antonio Rivera and his European expedition arrived at the Colorado River near present-day Moab in 1765. Eleven years later, two Spanish Franciscan friars reached Utah Lake and mapped it, hoping to return to establish a Spanish colony. Spain did not pursue the idea, however, and the next Europeans to explore the area were fur traders in the early 1800s. Then, in July 1847, Brigham Young led the first Mormons into the Salt Lake Valley, and the flood of Mormon immigrants began. These were the people who established Utah as we know it today.

MEET THE MORMONS The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was born in the 1820s when Joseph Smith had a revelation: After much prayer asking which Christian church he should join, Smith was told by God and Jesus that he would be the one to restore the church that Christ established when he walked the earth. An angel named Moroni then gave Smith some ancient inscribed gold tablets that, under divine inspiration, he was able to translate into the Book of Mormon. In 1830, Smith and his followers published the Book of Mormon and founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in upstate New York. Smith's revelations and the fervor with which his followers believed and tried to spread the word bred hostility among their more skeptical neighbors; the early Mormons were soon forced to leave New York.

Smith and his followers settled in Ohio and Missouri in the early 1830s. A few years of prosperity were succeeded by strife, and the growing Mormon community was once again forced to flee. They established their church headquarters at Nauvoo, Illinois, reclaiming a swampy area along the Mississippi river. Within a few years, Nauvoo was the second-largest city in Illinois, and the Mormons continued to grow and flourish. Also during these years, the practice of polygamy began slowly and quietly among church leaders. Both their nonconformism and their success bred fear and anger in their opponents, who considered Smith and his followers a political, economic, and religious threat. In 1844, a mob stormed the jail in Carthage, Illinois, where Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were being held on treason charges, and murdered them.

Brigham Young, a confidant of Smith, became the second leader of the church, displaying a genius for organization in the evacuation of Nauvoo and the subsequent migration westward in search of a new Zion. In 1846, the Mormons headed west from Illinois, establishing winter quarters on the far side of the Missouri River, near present-day Omaha, Nebraska.

FOUNDING ZION In the spring of 1847, Brigham Young started out with the first group of emigrants—2 children, 3 women, and 143 men. When the first group reached the mouth of Emigration Canyon and looked out upon the empty wasteland of Salt Lake Valley, Young reportedly said, "This is the right place." Within hours of their arrival, the pioneers had begun building an irrigation system and establishing fields for growing food.

In the next few days, Young chose the site of the temple and laid out the new city in a grid system beginning at the southeast corner of Temple Square.

That first year almost ended the settlement before it had properly begun. The sod roofs leaked; provisions ran low, forcing the pioneers to eat whatever they could find, including the sego lily bulb (now the state flower); a late frost damaged the wheat and vegetables; and drought damaged more. Then a plague of crickets descended on what was left of the crops. After 2 weeks, the crickets were effectively eliminated by seagulls (now Utah's state bird) that came from the Great Salt Lake to devour the insects by the thousands, and enough of the crops were saved to feed the pioneers. A monument in Temple Square commemorates their deliverance from famine.

By the end of 1848, almost 3,000 Mormons had arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. It was now a part of the United States, ceded to the Union by Mexico. In 1849, the Mormons petitioned to have their territory declared the State of Deseret, a name that comes from the Book of Mormon and means honeybee. Denied statehood, the territory of Utah—named after the Ute tribe—was created in 1850, with Brigham Young as territorial governor. Although no longer officially run by the church, the territory was assured of its continued influence, because the vast majority of voters were Mormons who elected church leaders to positions of authority in the civic domain as well.

In these years, non-Mormons—or "Gentiles," as the Mormons call them—began traveling through the valley, many on their way to or from the gold fields of California. Salt Lake City was an ideal spot for resting and resupplying before setting out again. The Mormons often bought horses, livestock, and supplies, in turn reselling what they didn't need to other travelers. The travelers who passed through to rest and trade took with them a collection of sometimes-confused ideas about the Mormons, including their fascinating practice of polygamy. The journals of these travelers gave the nation its first real knowledge—however incomplete—of Mormon faith and customs.

THE UTAH WAR In 1857, a new governor was sent from Washington to supplant Young. Fearing he would be rejected, President Buchanan sent federal troops to escort him. The Mormons harassed the troops by driving off livestock and attacking their supply trains, forcing them to winter in western Wyoming. Although the Mormons were prepared to fight to keep the army out, neither Brigham Young nor President Buchanan wanted bloodshed. As the new governor entered Salt Lake City, Mormon families packed their belongings and awaited the order to move.

An estimated 30,000 Mormons left their homes in Salt Lake City and the northern settlements, moving south over a period of 2 months, leaving the capital virtually deserted by mid-May. The exodus drew national and international attention and placed the U.S. government in quite an unfavorable light—the government had persecuted innocent people, steamrolling over the fundamental right to religious freedom. An uneasy peace was finally established, the Mormons returned to their homes, and the two groups lived side by side until the outbreak of the Civil War, when the army was called back east.

BECOMING THE BEEHIVE STATE After the close of the Civil War, attention was again directed toward the enforcement of antipolygamy laws, and many Mormons were imprisoned. Finally, in 1890, the church leaders issued a statement: Based on a revelation from God, the church was no longer teaching plural marriage and no person would be permitted

to enter into it. With this major bar to statehood removed, Utah became the 45th state on January 4, 1896.

The Depression hit Utah hard; the unemployment rate reached 35% and per capita income was cut in half. Not until World War II was industry brought back to life. Several military bases established during the war became permanent installations, and missile plants were built along the Wasatch Front. After the war, steel companies reopened, the mining industry boomed, and high-tech businesses moved in. By the mid-1960s, the economy base had shifted from agricultural to industrial.

Dams were built—including Glen Canyon Dam, creating Lake Powell, and Flaming Gorge Dam, creating Lake Flaming Gorge—to further the cause of industry and to ensure water and energy supplies, but they had an additional benefit: They provided recreational opportunities for a modern society with an increasing amount of discretionary income and free time. Ski resorts began opening in the Wasatch Mountains. In the early 1980s, after outsiders started showing interest in the new playground of Utah, Salt Lake City International Airport and the city's cultural center, the Salt Palace complex, expanded.

As the mining industries began winding down, tourism and service industries grew; today, they account for more of the state's economy than any other industry. In the 1990s the state lobbied hard to be named the host of the 2002 Winter Olympics, and then built numerous venues and even roads to assure that the games would be a success. The Mormons, who spent their first decades fleeing from outsiders, are now welcoming them with open arms, and they're coming in droves.

3 A Brief Look at Modern Mormonism—or Yes, You *Can* Get a Cup of Coffee in Utah

Utah is a Mormon state. Not officially, of course—the teachings and values of the church have a strong influence in the voting booth and echo throughout the halls of government.

Although some conflict is inevitable as government and community leaders try to adapt to Utah's growing cultural diversity, this discord means little to most visitors, who come to Utah to experience its scenery, recreation, and history. What you'll discover is that Utah is much like the rest of the United States, although generally not as hip as California or as multicultural as New York or New Mexico.

WHAT MORMONS BELIEVE

Mormons are Christians, believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Bible as the Word of God, as do all the many offshoots of Christianity. But a significant difference is the role played by the **Book of Mormon,** which they believe to be God's Word as revealed to and translated by church founder Joseph Smith.

This book tells of two tribes of people who left Israel in biblical times and made their way to the Western Hemisphere. Mormons believe that these people were the ancestors of today's American Indians. The Book of Mormon teaches that after his resurrection, Christ spent about 40 days among these people, preaching, healing, and establishing his church. The Mormons believe that Joseph Smith was commanded to restore the church as organized by Christ during his ministry on earth.

The first four principles of the faith are belief in Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism by immersion, and the laying on of hands to receive "the Gift of the Holy Ghost" (in which a priest places his

hands on a church member for the transference of spirituality).

The family unit is of paramount importance to Mormons, and they believe that marriage lasts literally forever, transcending death. They believe that sex outside of marriage, including homosexual behavior, is a sin. The church encourages the family to work, play, and study together, and young adults—most men and some women—generally spend 1 or 2 years as missionaries. Mormons also believe in the baptism and redemption of those already dead—hence their strong interest in genealogy.

It's practically impossible to discuss the church without discussing polygamy, which caused so much antagonism toward church members in the 19th century. But polygamy—or plural marriage, as the church dubbed it—has little to do with what the LDS church was and is. Polygamy came about as a "revelation" to church founder Joseph Smith in the 1840s, was practiced by a relatively small percentage of church members, and was outlawed by church officials in 1890. Today, polygamy is prohibited both by church doctrine and state law, although it does continue among an estimated 30,000 rebels, who have left the church to practice their own brand of Mormonism.

WHAT MORMONISM MEANS FOR VISITORS TO UTAH

This strong religious influence has brought about some strange laws regarding alcoholic beverages, although it's definitely not true that you can't get a drink here. Cigarettes and other tobacco products are also readily available, but smoking is prohibited by state law in all restaurants—legislation that is becoming more and more common across the United States. Although cola drinks contain caffeine, the church doesn't specifically prohibit their consumption. Some Mormons drink Coke or Pepsi; others refrain. You'll generally have no trouble at all purchasing whatever type of soft drink you want, with or without caffeine.

What we found pleasantly surprising is that although the Mormons of Utah can be pretty tough on themselves regarding the above-mentioned "sins," virtually every Utahn we encountered in researching this book—and a great many were Mormons—were tolerant of others' beliefs and lifestyles. We can't guarantee that you won't run across some holier-than-thou busybody, but our experience has been that they generally respect each individual's own moral choices.

Be forewarned, though: Mormons are practically missionaries by definition, and will, with only the slightest encouragement, want to enthusiastically help you see the wisdom of their ways.

Because the church emphasizes the importance of family, you'll see lots of kids—Utah is noted for having the highest fertility rate in the nation. This makes Utah a very kid-friendly state, with lots of family-oriented activities and attractions. Overall, prices for kids and families are often very reasonable. And because many Mormon families observe Monday evening as a time to spend together, sports facilities, amusement parks, and similar venues often offer family discounts on Mondays.

Although about 62% of Utah's population are LDS church members, the number of Mormons you'll encounter will vary considerably. Although it's the world headquarters of the church, Salt Lake City is just under half Mormon; some of the smaller towns approach 100%. Of major cities, Provo has the strongest church influence. Although St. George was historically a major stronghold for church members, recent migration from other parts of the United States is gradually diluting that influence. You'll probably find the least church influence in Park City and Moab, which in recent years have attracted large numbers of outsiders.

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